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REVIEW

OF

ENGLISH AND FOREIGN LITERATURE.

JUNE, 1803.

ENGLISH BOOKS.

Travels in Turkey, Asia Minor, Syria, and across the Desert into Egypt, during the Years 1799, 1800, *and* 1801, *in company with the Turkish Army and British Military Mission; to which are annexed Observations on the Plague, and on the Diseases prevalent in Turkey, and a Meteorological Journal. By William Wittman, M. D.* 4to. 595pp. 2l. 12s. 6d. Phillips, 1803.

IN the present multiplication of books the writers of travels appear most industrious, but it is certain few books disappoint us more than the narrations of travellers. This is to be ascribed, partly to the vehemence of our hopes, which cannot reasonably expect a full gratification, and partly to the defects which are incidental to the design of the traveller himself, who can perhaps tell us nothing, because nothing is to be told, or, in the description of unknown coasts and distant regions, cannot expect to please, more particularly if our own country affords nothing analogous, by means of which interest may stimulate curiosity.

The memorable campaign of our army in the East has been detailed sufficiently by various writers; but the account of a battle, and the countermarches of an army are interesting to few, and the philosopher may reasonably wish that our knowledge of Egypt might be perpetuated by other memorials than the battles we gained upon its shores.

The laudable ambition of the French institute has given many interesting memorials to the public, which have rather encreased than diminished our appetite for these recitals, and the habitual levity and inaccuracy of these narratives have made it desirable that they should either be confirmed by the concurrent testimonies of our own countrymen, or corrected where erroneous; and amended where deficient.

But no one is to be blamed because he wanted, but that he did not improve his opportunities. The present author having had the means of enlarging our knowledge, and rectifying our opinions, has made the best use of them, and will therefore be welcomed as a man who has occupied himself in a laudable pursuit, and laboured for the good of others.

Dr. Wittman was physician to the British military mission which accompanied the army of the Grand Vizier in its route through Turkey, Syria, and Egypt, during the late campaign in that country. He had thus means of information on subjects which most will think interesting, and he has introduced into his book such diversity of matter and remark, that almost every reader will find something congenial to his own mind. The plague is a prominent object in his catalogue of observations, and he witnessed the depopulating effects of this disease in the country through which he passed. We are sorry to add that he regards this disorder as baffling the whole power of medicine.

It has often been asserted, that the ravages of the plague are not resisted in Turkey from the predestinating character of the people, who think it in vain to combat with what they are apt to consider as a fatality. Our physicians

have told us that if the plague were to revisit the southern kingdoms of Europe, it would meet with its match. The observations of Dr. Wittman do not confirm this assertion; he regards this malady as the irresistible scourge of mankind, which bids defiance to every system, and baffles the skill of the ablest professors of physic. In the Doctor's description of Constantinople, the mosques, the seraglio, and the manners of the Turks, the reader will recall to his mind the lively letters of Lady Mary Wortley Montague. The author, speaking of Belgrade, confirms in part the accuracy of her description, and makes suitable allowance for the exaggerations which proceeded from so glowing a fancy.

In the last war between the Turks and Russians, the marine of the former was almost wholly destroyed, Dr. Wittman tells us it is reviving fast; he says—'It is somewhat singular that, notwithstanding the Grand Seignor 'possesses more ports and havens than any other European power, and is 'master of the Black Sea, the coasts of which supply him with materials 'for the construction of ships of war, and although his capital is established 'on one of the finest harbours of the universe, still his navy has for a series 'of years made a very insignificant figure in the history of maritime nations. 'Under the present Captain Pacha it is now assuming a more promising 'aspect;—in addition to the more advantageous system of naval tactics, he 'is gradually introducing, several experienced ship-builders from Eng-'land, France, and Sweden have been invited to the Turkish dock-'yards, where they have recently built several fine ships of the line, to-'gether with frigates and smaller vessels.'

In the variety of human affairs it is not impossible, but that maritime knowledge may revive in those countries from which it was first derived to the rest of the world, and the Sovereign of Phœnicia, Rhodes, and ancient Crete, may recal the glories of past ages, and again dispute the empire of the seas. As the author's narrative is necessarily minute, and proceeds gradually, it is not in our power to follow him step by step. He gives an account of a curious punishment of a Turk for assaulting an Englishman without provocation. The entreaty of Lord Elgin saved the life of the offender, and procured a mitigation of punishment, which was to receive fifty strokes of the bastinado on the soles of his feet, and to be imprisoned twenty years in the college of Pera, to *learn the Arabic language*.

The description of Jaffa naturally introduces the recollection of the General Buonaparte. Dr. Wittman examined every fact with a scrupulosity that does him honour, and with a desire to be spared the horror of believing cruelty so tremendously inhuman. He confirms every minute fact of the account of Sir Robert Wilson, of those unfortunate four thousand who were massacred in cool blood, and the spectacle of whose butchery was reconnoitred through a glass by the General from a distant hill. The author thus speaks—'I have seen the skeletons of these unfortunate victims, 'which lie scattered over the hills, a modern Golgotha, which remains a 'lasting disgrace to a nation calling itself civilized. It would give pleasure 'to the author of this work, as well as to every liberal mind, to hear 'these facts contradicted on substantial evidence. Indeed, I am sorry to 'add, that the charge of cruelty against the French General does not rest 'here. It having been reported that previously to the retreat of the 'French army from Syria, their commander-in-chief had ordered all the 'French sick at Jaffa to be poisoned, I was led to make the enquiry, 'to which every one who had visited the spot would naturally be directed, 'respecting an act of such singular, and it should seem wanton inhuma-'nity. It concerns me to have to state, not only that such a circumstance 'was positively asserted to have happened, but that, while in Egypt, an individual

'individual was pointed out to us as having been the executioner of these 'diabolical commands.'

The author relates the general pillage of the French in Egypt, and the devastation committed by the army of a civilized nation, worse than the irruption of the Huns and Goths. A curious anecdote is related of the ignorance even of the higher ranks of the Turks. The progress through the Holy Land is most interestingly described, as well as the present state of the city of Jerusalem. The author was here told by the priests of an extraordinary threat of Buonaparte,—'that if he should ever obtain 'possession of Jerusalem, he would plant the tree of liberty on the spot 'on which the cross of Jesus stood; and would bury the first French 'grenadier who should fall in the attack, in the tomb of our Saviour.' The description of Bethlem and the country around Jerusalem, though long cannot be called tedious—Who would not feel a pious ardour on ground like this? We should have thought humbly of Dr. Wittman, or any other writer, who had passed over in neglect, the spot which religion has consecrated to the universal reverence of mankind. The author proceeds to recount the dreadful insubordination of the Turkish army, and the declining state of their military tactics, as well as their narrow policy in the schemes they project to restore order and revive the vigour of the state. He relates the ravages of the plague, and the death of the General from that malady, and makes use of every opportunity to display his professional knowledge on the diseases which rage in the several countries which he visits.

Speaking of the superstition of the Turks, he tells us—'that they be-'stow an implicit faith on an ancient prophecy, which, according to their 'traditions, was found engraven on the tomb of one of their santons, and 'which is pretty nearly to this effect:—That the Turkish empire will be 'annihilated by the Russians; that the first battle which will be fought 'between the two contending powers will be lost by the Ottomans, on the 'banks of the Niester; that another battle will afterwards be decided 'against them in the neighbourhood of Constantinople; and that their 'emperor will be compelled to reside at Damascus.' The author observes upon this, that should they be overcome in future, their superstition will open the door of victory to their enemies rather than their own weakness. Dr. Wittman is the first who has written a detail of the Turkish campaign in Egypt. Our own officers have done justice to the conduct of the English army, and the French writers have represented every thing to their own advantage. This part of his narrative is thus more peculiarly interesting, because wholly original. Dr. Wittman had the satisfaction of hearing the account of Bruce confirmed, respecting a custom which has been generally disbelieved; the relation of which exposed the author to continual raillery, and threw a general discredit upon his work. 'An Abyssinian 'priest (says the author) assured me that the indigenous inhabitants still 'persevered in their custom of eating raw flesh, a luxury in which, how-'ever, the priests were not allowed to participate. In the course of our 'conversation it appeared that he was familiarly acquainted with many of 'the plants and animals, of which the celebrated Bruce has, in his travels, 'given engravings and descriptions. Mr. Bruce's book being at hand, 'the engravings were shewn to him, and he gave to the animals and other 'productions the names which Bruce had annexed to them. I was enabled 'to satisfy myself of the accuracy of a part of what has been so strongly 'questioned in the accounts which the above traveller has published.' The reader will possibly be pleased by the author's adventures in a pyramid, which we shall briefly abstract, retaining as well as we can his own words—being provided with every thing necessary for the investigation of

catacombs, he descended in company with others:—'In entering the pit '(he says) we were obliged to take off a part of our garments; and having 'reached the interior were struck with awe by the solemn and aweful sight 'which presented itself to our view. Within the subterraneous vaults 'or chambers the bones of mutilated mummies, which had been so rifled 'and disturbed, that no one of them could be found in an entire state, 'lay scattered in confused heaps. As nothing in the vaults had preserved 'its original position, it was in vain for us to prosecute our researches to 'come at any thing like an entire mummy; we ascended, therefore, to the 'mouth or pit of the catacombs. Having reached the chamber in which 'the mummies were deposited, in earthen jars near two feet high, we 'selected several of those which were the most perfect, and brought them 'away with us. We opened several of those which were still in an entire 'state to come at their contents; we found that the bill, the bones, and 'several of the feathers even in the birds, had been preserved after so 'considerable a lapse of time, the same bituminous matter and composition 'of spices having been applied to their preservation, with those employed 'for the human body.'

The author found here the Ibis of the ancients, and ascertains it to be precisely the same bird of which Bruce has given a minute description. This is an additional corroboration of the narrative of that famous traveller, who was discredited not because he related what was too marvellous to believe, but because he told that, which having nothing analogous wherewith it might be compared in the sphere of our own observation, was reasonably a subject of doubt.

In visiting the place where Homer is said to have taught a school, the author seems to feel no very poetic fervours: he calls him, with a kind of humility of phrase, an '*extraordinary man.*' Dr. Wittman we perceive is more of the physician than the poet. The author thus describes the appearance and dress of Greek women in the island of Scio.—'Some of the 'females display the upper part of the bosom, which is covered by others 'with a handkerchief. They are in general very fair, have agreeable features, and a fine striking physiognomy. In this island, indeed, both the 'complexion of the Greek and Turkish women is good; but the former, 'not content with that which nature has liberally bestowed on them, endeavour to embellish it by having recourse to art. I allude here to the 'Greek women who inhabit the town of Scio: they go always unveiled, 'and when they put on their gay garments, are highly rouged, or painted.

'When a Turk espouses one of these females, the children whom she 'bears him are educated in the Mahomedan faith, while the mother is permitted to continue in the practice of her own religion.' The following account is given of the amusements of Grand Cairo.—'Of the amusements 'of Grand Cairo, such as they present themselves without doors to all 'classes of its inhabitants, the principal consists in the exhibition of the 'almes, or dancing girls, who attract crouds of the populace in the 'squares, streets, and places of public resort. These dissolute and abandoned females have the face uncovered, which, in the countries of the 'East, is accounted in the women a certain indication of the most atrocious 'profligacy. Their attire, which is well calculated to display the form of 'the person and the limbs, is thrown on with a most indecent negligence. 'The movements of these young females, in dancing, are rapid, and display a greater share of pliancy and suppleness of the limbs, than of grace. 'Towards its close the dance becomes more animated, and is accompanied 'by gestures, motions, and contractions of the body, still more indecent 'than at the commencement. The performance is usually confined to two 'of these females: but on particular occasions the number is more consider-

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'able. On the thumb and fore finger of each hand they wear the small 'cups called castanets, much in use in Spain in dancing the fandango, with 'which they beat time to the sound of the musical instruments, consisting 'either of a hautboy or of a kind of flute, accompanied by a tambourine. 'A concert which is by no means either melodious or agreeable, follows 'the dance.

'This is a great source of gratification to the people of Cairo, as well 'as to the lower classes of the population of all the towns and villages of 'Egypt, where it seldom happens that these dancing girls are not to be met 'with in the streets and places of public resort. The more respectable of 'the inhabitants introduce them into their houses, and even into their 'harams, where they give lessons of grace to the females, without a dread of 'the latter being contaminated by the notorious profligacy of their morals.'

The author, who has been every where an observer of manners, has described them with much minuteness. As one part of mankind is always anxious to be acquainted with the other, it is these relations which more particularly please in the narrative of travellers, because they have a constant reference to ourselves. But our observations on this pleasing work, have now reached their limits, and we must dismiss it with a candid opinion upon its general merits.

The object of travellers is generally two-fold, either to decorate known facts by new ornaments or better arrangements, or to open fresh sources of information. To the former the present author has a limited pretension; his matter is not entirely original, and the descriptions of the countries he has visited have been given by travellers more competent than himself. But he is not without his share of novelty, and his observations on the plague and other endemic diseases, confer upon him the credit of originality. To decorations of style, however, he must make no claim. He sees much, indeed, and tells much; but his relation is not vigorous, and in his review of manners, he seldom makes any of those forcible observations or solid reflections, which mark the philosopher and judge of human life. Except the professional science, which is every where interspersed, the narrative of Dr. Wittman might have been written by any one. We pass from the author to the book:—It is extremely well printed, and better furnished with typographical allurements than most of the publications of the day. The plates descriptive of the costume of the different ranks and nations are well executed and numerous. The public will look to this book with curiosity, and, moderating its expectations, will not be dissatisfied.

The Life and Posthumous Works of William Cowper, with an Introductory Letter to the Right Honourable Earl Cowper. By William Hayley, Esq. 2 vols. 4to. 2l. 12s. 6d. boards. Johnson, 1803.

IT is to the praise of learning that it has not only softened our manners, but encouraged and drawn forth the best affections of our hearts. Liberality has ever attended the progress of science, of which the general tendency, if not counteracted by obstinate and habitual depravity, is to advance us in the scale of moral no less than intellectual improvement. These effects we have witnessed in our own times, and our own experience has enabled us to contradict the ill-natured proverb 'genus irritabile vatum' and to assert that, among the sons of learning, there are more instances of a truly generous and steady friendship, than in any other class of mankind. Authors, indeed, like other men, have their jars and collisions, but the liberality which learning confers on minds where her empire is extensive, will always soften the animosity of competition, and abate the asperity of rivalship;—of this we have a memorable example in the friendship which

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long existed between the late Mr. Cowper and his present biographer; this kindness, moreover, has not been interrupted by that which puts an end to every thing else; it has survived its object, and is now employed in the grateful task of perpetuating the memory of a man, who will rise in esteem and veneration with the encreasing taste and liberality of the age.

In a work of this bulk, and the variety of information it contains, it is difficult to know where to begin our survey. The leading incidents of the life of Cowper are generally known, and it must be our object to select those which will strike by their novelty.

The family of Cowper was respectable for several centuries, but, in the words of the poet,

"Inter majores ipsumque Promethea *ponat*,"

and we shall esteem him but little for family honours, when his other merits are considered. The alliance with genius such as his will be remembered with honour by his distant posterity, but the lustre of his ancestry is dimmed and obscured by his own.

At an early age he was sent to Westminster, and he resented to the last hour of his life the treatment he met with at this school. He represents himself as not daring to raise his eyes above the shoe-buckle of the elder boys who were accustomed to tyrannize over him.

He was removed from Westminster to an attorney's-office. This must have been yet more repugnant to the feelings of a Cowper than a public school. But resolved not to drudge at the desk of a solicitor, he settled himself as a regular student of law, in chambers, at the Temple. Here he resided till the age of thirty-three, unknown and unambitious of that early renown which dazzles young minds, and which the exercise of his talents would have procured him. It is somewhat remarkable that Cowper, though cotemporary with the first writers of his age, and intimately known to some, was fired with no emulation of kindred efforts. But he would frequently assist more confident authors, by productions which he concealed; and Colman and Thornton, his schoolfellows, and at this time adventurers in letters, induced him to contribute to their periodical publication, The Connoisseur. He gave them three papers which are inserted in the appendix of this work. Mr. Hayley's opinion of them is, that they shew Cowper to be master of that graceful and useful kind of composition, which might have made him a worthy associate even of Addison himself. We can perceive little of Addison in them, or of any thing beyond the common writings of periodical authors.

The intimacy of Cowper with Loyd is supposed by Mr. Hayley to have produced much assistance to the latter from the pen of our poet. An Epistle to Loyd by Cowper in 1754, is inserted, but has more of friendship than any other merit. During his long residence at the Temple he became intimate with all the eminent writers, and devoted his compositions to the service of any friend who requested it. In Duncombe's Horace, printed in 1759, are two satires translated by Cowper.

Speaking of his own life, in a letter to a friend, he has this language of himself—'From the age of twenty to thirty-three I was occupied, or ought 'to have been in the study of law; from thirty-three to sixty, I spent my 'time in the country, where my reading has only been an apology for idle-'ness, and where, when I had not either a magazine or review, I was 'sometimes a carpenter, at others a bird-cage maker, or a gardener, or a 'drawer of landscapes. At fifty years of age I commenced an author—it 'is a whim which has served me longest and best, and will probably be my 'last.'

Cowper had some prospect of emolument in the law, if not from the exercise of his own talents, at least from the interest of his connections. He was

was appointed Clerk of the Journals in Parliament, and was required, in some official business, to appear at the bar of the house. His terrors on this occasion overwhelmed his reason; nor could a long preparation command sufficient fortitude to undergo a public appearance. The very friends who called on him for the purpose of attending him to the House of Lords, acquiesced in the necessity of his not appearing. He resigned his office immediately.

At this time the melancholy of Cowper encreased to such a degree, that he suffered a mental derangement. His benevolent biographer passes over this period of his life in deep silence and affliction. This calamity at length gave way to the affectionate care of his friends, but Cowper always remembered it with horror. It was at this time that he sought consolation in the truths of religion, and his spirit was gradually revived by devout contemplation on those subjects, which calm the mind by elevating the thoughts. He soon afterwards retired to Olney, in Buckinghamshire. The most remarkable æra in the life of the poet, was in September, 1781. He formed an intimacy with a lady, to whom the world is indebted for the ballad of John Gilpin, the Task, and the Translation of Homer. The name of this lady was Jones. The following account is given of that exquisite piece of pleasantry, John Gilpin:—'It happened one afternoon, in those years when 'his accomplished friend, Lady Austen, made a part of his little evening 'circle, that she, Mrs. Jones, observed him sinking into encreasing de-'jections; it was her custom on these occasions, to try all the resources of her 'sprightly powers, for his immediate relief. She told him the story of John 'Gilpin, to dissipate the gloom of the passing hour. Its effect on the fancy 'of Cowper had the air of enchantment: he informed her the next morning, 'that convulsions of laughter, brought on by the recollection of her story, 'had kept him waking during the greater part of the night; and that he 'had turned it into a ballad.—So arose the pleasant poem of John Gilpin.' The origin of the Task is too well known to be repeated—it was composed in the winter of 1784. While this was in the press, he was occupied in the translation of Homer, and Mr Hayley here introduces the letters which passed between his cousin, lady Hesketh, and himself, as giving some account of the manner in which his time was spent. The visit of this lady whom he tenderly loved, caused a fresh change in the situation of the poet. He removed from Olney to Weston in November, 1786. The course of his life is here described by the subsequent series of his letters to his amiable relation. His biographer, indeed, may be said rather to have compiled his account of Cowper from his letters to his several friends, than to have written a life of him himself. Perhaps, not a twentieth part of the volume is of his own composition. Our limits will not permit us to follow the poet through the various changes of his life; his removals from place to place; the different poems he projected, and his progress in those which the public has seen; together with those minuter events, which form the subject of his letters; we shall, therefore, close with an extract of his character, as drawn by Mr. Hayley.

'The person and mind of Cowper seem to have been formed with equal 'kindness by nature. He was of the middle stature, rather strong than de-'licate in the form of his limbs. He had an air of pensive reserve in his 'deportment, and his extreme shyness sometimes produced in his manner 'an indescribable mixture of awkwardness and dignity. Nature had given 'him a warm constitution, and had he been prosperous in early love, it is 'probable he might have enjoyed a more uniform and happy tenor of health. 'But a disappointment of the heart, arising from a cruelty of fortune, threw 'a cloud on his juvenile spirit. He was beloved and revered with a sort of 'idolatry in his family; not from any romantic ideas of his magical powers

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'as a poet, but from that evangelical gentleness of manners, and purity of 'conduct, which illumined the shade of his sequestered life.—Lord Thur- 'low being once requested to describe him, replied with that solemn energy 'of dignified elocution, by which he is accustomed to give a very forcible 'effect to a few simple words,—" Cowper is a truly good man."

The present work is written with extreme fondness for the memory of Cowper, which sometimes betrays Mr. Hayley into un-authorised panegyric; but the amiable and the pious light in which our poet is placed, compels us to subscribe to the praise almost without examination. From the retirement in which he lived, the character of Cowper has been misunderstood by many; Mr. Hayley has exhibited it in those colours. which make a review of it as acceptable to the poet, as the religious man.

The History of the Maroons from their Origin to the Establishment of their chief Tribe at Sierra Leone: including the Expedition to Cuba, for the Purpose of procuring Spanish Chasseurs; and the State of the Island of Jamaica for the last ten Years; with a succinct History of the Island previous to that Period By R. C. Dallas, Esq. 2 vols. 8vo. 1l. 1s. boards. Longman and Rees. 1803.

THE history of our colonies has at length become interesting to others besides merchants and planters; the work of the late Mr. Edwards will be recalled to the mind of our readers as the basis of the present production, but this the author disclaims. Mr. Dallas tells us that he derived little assistance from the cursory narrative of that writer in the year 1796, and that upon consulting it he found little information on those subjects which he purposed to detail, and that little did not agree with his own. This, however, makes no charge against the general accuracy of the author of the 'History of the West Indies;' it only rendered it doubly necessary for Mr. Dallas to state the authorities on which his own work was founded.

In his preface he mentions the names of two gentlemen to whom he was indebted for his materials; to Mr. Quarrel, who served in the Maroon war, and was one of the commissioners sent to Cuba for the Spanish chasseurs, and afterwards the commissary entrusted with the removal of the Maroons from Jamaica to Nova Scotia, he confesses the highest obligations. This gentleman was a member of the House of Assembly at the time of the war, and is now a member of the Council. From the copious notes he had taken the greater part of the present book is composed, and it appears to have been the wish of Mr. Dallas that the work should have been undertaken by his friend, but this was declined. Fortified by the authority of one who was upon the scene of action, whose trusts are sufficient arguments of his credit and respectability, Mr. Dallas comes forward to the public, and solicits their confidence in his history. He had likewise access to many other sources which contribute to the accuracy of his work; and, to render it complete, he has prefixed a general history of Jamaica previous to the French revolution; but of this he was not the author—'Being visited by 'Providence,' he says, 'with an affliction that suspended my application, 'and rendered me for a considerable time unable to pursue my work, I re- 'quested a friend, to whose sympathy and kind intentions I am indebted 'for much consolation, to undertake the previous history.' There is, perhaps, a little indecorum in Mr. Dallas's mention of the spirit and concise elegance with which this history is written by his friend, but we shall receive the ardour of his kindness as an excuse for what must be confessed to want one.

In the succinct account of Jamaica the history of the island is traced from the earliest periods, and much useful information is brought forward with

respect to its productions. Having given an enumeration of the vegetables used for sustenance and refreshment, the author passes to such as are the objects of commerce, at the head of which class stands the sugar-cane. His account of this plant is extremely curious and circumstantial, and in tracing its history he is no less accurate than entertaining.

The botanical name of this plant, perhaps the most valuable in creation, it is arundo saccharifera; was originally a native of the east, and was cultivated in India and Arabia; it is supposed to have found its way into Europe by the Red Sea, at least as early as the period of the Crusades. The author might have assigned it an earlier introduction; it was brought to Europe two centuries previous to the Crusades, and the Venetian merchants, who kept up a commerce with the East, whilst the rest of Europe was immerged in barbarism, trafficked with it even in our own island. The sugar-cane grew spontaneously in the West Indies, though Columbus appears ignorant of the fact. The secret of making sugar was confined to the eastern nations long after the discovery of its growth in the West Indies; the Portuguese and Spaniards having learned the process revealed it to other nations. The author observes, that sugar is nutritious and absolutely wholesome, and is said to have contributed to extinguish the scurvy and other diseases.

Of the medical virtues of sugar we are inclined to believe more than this author; it is not only a good antiscorbutic, but it is known to preserve both animal and vegetable substances from putrefaction; a celebrated physician has observed, that it possesses this power in a higher degree than common alimentary salt: on account of this property it is sometimes applied externally as a balsamic and antiseptic. Coarse sugar, in which there is more oil than in refined sugar, is recommended as a good medicine in collyria for discharging ulcers of the cornea, in which astringents are hurtful. The process of obtaining sugar from the cane is explained clearly and simply; but it is too long for an abstract. The island of Jamaica alone, in a favourable season, is said to export to Great Britain one hundred and forty thousand hogsheads. We knew not before that polygamy prevailed to such an extent among our negroes. The author computes, that in Jamaica alone ten thousand of the leading negroes, that is, drivers, coopers, carpenters, &c. &c. possess from two to four wives. We are doubtful whether this practice, which we know to prevail in Africa, should be tolerated in our colonies. There is already a disproportion in the numbers of the two sexes in most of our colonies; and this author states, that there exists, at the present time, in Jamaica, an excess of thirty thousand male negroes. Speaking of the cast of character which may be distinguished in the native white Creoles of Jamaica, he says, 'Masters of slaves, they are jealous and proud of their 'freedom; which is to them not merely an enjoyment, but a dignity and 'rank. Hence, throughout all classes of them, there is diffused and dis-'played an independence of spirit combined with a certain consciousness of 'equality unknown to the European communities.

'Many causes of national character are so mixed as to be almost inscruta-'ble; it may, perhaps, be partly ascribed to the sensibility that a warm cli-'mate excites, that Creoles are said to be impatient of subordination, and ad-'dicted to juridical controversy; but, if some be litigious, others ostenta-'tious, and many extravagant, in general it may be truly affirmed of them, 'as a race, that they are bright, intrepid, frank, and intelligent; actuated 'by a high sense of honour, eminent for hospitality, distinguished by viva-'city, and nobly generous.'

This finishes what may be called the introduction to the history, and Mr. Dallas comes forward himself. In the account he proposes to give of the Maroons, he has very injudiciously chosen the epistolary form. Against this we have to object the common practice of historians; and, as the inno-

vation proceeds from no reasonable motive, the author must not escape our censure. In his first letter he gives an account of the state of Jamaica at the commencement of the French revolution.—'At this time,' he says, 'Jamaica, after having been devastated for a succession of years by hurri-'canes, was enjoying a degree of tranquillity and prosperity it had never 'before attained; abundant crops, and great demands in Europe for West-'Indian produce, caused the island to flourish, enriching the planter and the 'merchant; every thing was favourable to the country; great improvements 'had been made in every point.'

He proceeds to give the history of Jamaica previous to an early period in the French revolution, and then passes to his principal subject in relating the origin of the Maroons. This we shall briefly abstract—Jamaica was conquered by the English in 1665, and most of the Spanish inhabitants retired to Cuba, but many, with the few negroes they possessed, continued to inhabit the remote part of the island on the north. In this situation they kept up an intercourse with their countrymen, who had fixed themselves in Cuba, and joining forces, they made a descent upon the island with the hope of regaining possession of it; but the resistance they met obliged them to abandon their settlements, and finally compelled them all to seek refuge in Cuba. The slaves, however, were not inclined to follow the fortunes of their masters, or purchase, by their fidelity, servitude in another country. They fled to the fastnesses of inaccessible mountains, and committed hostilities upon the new possessors of the island. These fugitive negroes were designated by the name of Maroons, or hog-hunters, and continued for many years to wage a desultory war against the inhabitants. By degrees they became formidable, and their predatory excursions growing bolder from their numbers, they harrassed the settlers, and retarded the course of civilization. The term Maroon was at first confined to the body of original Spanish fugitives, but rebellion spread to another class of negroes, and Cudjoe their leader becoming formidable, he and his people were included in the appellation. They waged a war against the planters with alternate success and disaster, and were considered an enemy whom it was impossible to subdue, and unwise to admit to any terms of compromise. The whole strength of the government was at length employed against the rebels, and many battles were won which were yet short of a defeat. The ground of action was left to their enemy, their standards were raised, and their trumpets sounded victory; but the Maroons, beaten from the plain, retired to the hills, and dislodged from the hills, encamped in the plains again. Their art of warfare was seldom to risk a regular battle.

'The grand object of a Maroon chief in war,' says the author, 'was to 'take a station in some glen, or, as it is called in the West Indies, some 'cock-pit, enclosed by rocks and mountains nearly perpendicular, and to 'which the only practicable entrance is by a narrow defile. From the first 'cock-pit there is a succession of them, running from east to west, on a line 'in which they are passable from one to the other, though with more or less 'difficulty. These recesses have, probably, been formed among the large 'mountains of the island by violent earthquakes.'

Such are the fortifications of the Maroons, from which it must be difficult to dislodge them. 'Having but one common entrance,' Mr. Dallas proceeds, 'the way to it was so trodden by the frequent egress and ingress 'of the parties who go in quest of provision and plunder, that when a dis-'tant track was observed by a sharp-sighted guide, it hardly ever failed to 'lead to the mouth of the defile. At this mouth, which looks like a great 'fissure made through a rock by some extraordinary convulsion of nature, 'from two hundred yards to half a mile in length, and through which men

can pass only in a single file, the Maroons, whenever they expected an attack, disposed of themselves on the ledges of the rocks on both sides. Sometimes they advanced a party beyond the entrance of the defile, who waited in silent ambush for their pursuers, of whose approach they had always information from their outscouts. These, after a long march, oppressed by fatigue and thirst, advance towards the mouth of the defile; a favourable opporunity is taken when the enemy is within a few paces to fire upon them. If the party surprised return the fire on the spot where they see the smoke of the discharge, and appear to rush on towards it, they receive a volley in another direction; stopped by this, and undecided which party to pursue, they are staggered by the discharge of a third volley from the entrance of the defile. In the mean time, the concealed Maroons, fresh, and thoroughly acquainted with their ground, vanish almost unseen before their enemies have re-loaded. The troops, after losing more men, are under the necessity of retreating, and return to their posts unfit for service.'

Such was the nature of Maroon warfare, which has been thought by many as little more formidable than the rebellion of an undisciplined multitude. Government was, at length, compelled to offer terms of peace to their celebrated leader Cudjoe, but their power was still undiminished: other leaders carried on the war, and the island frequently exhibited scenes of murder and devastation, which it is ungrateful for the historian to paint. The Maroons, at length, became a nation of themselves; they built towns and fortifications, and negotiated peace and war; for many years, and under many able commanders, the attack was carried on against them, but victory determined nothing, or if any thing, might be considered as the cause of new battles.

The rise and progress of nations have often been subjects of wonder to the politician; but, however extensive his range of observations, it will furnish him with nothing more miraculous than the rise of the Maroons; a people formed from fugitive slaves—a nation established within three generations of mankind. The tardy growth of kingdoms has been matter of complaint to the philosopher of enlightened Europe; what will he say to the rapidity with which a few individuals propagated a people, constructed a language, instituted laws and religion, in the depths of the western wilderness.

Our limits will not admit us to pursue the author through the detail of the different wars between the Maroons and the planters. It was, at length, thought necessary to call in the assistance of the Spanish chasseurs, who, with their dogs, landed at Jamaica. The present was a critical period for the island; the Maroons were in strong force, and no efforts had been spared to strike a decisive blow: at length, after many rencounters, the policy and activity of General Walpole prevailed, and the war was terminated by the almost complete subjugation of the enemy; a treaty was made with the Maroons, of the general efficacy of which many contrary opinions were entertained; it was concluded in 1796. The banishment of the greater part of the Maroons was particularly desirable, but some of them were pardoned on conditions highly favourable to the government. The Trelawney Maroons were transported to Kingston, and a sum was voted by the House of Assembly for removing them to America. The author then relates their departure, and their conduct during their passage to Halifax, in Nova Scotia; their arrival and reception there: he then dwells upon their loyalty, and the arrangements made by the governor of the province for their final settlement; but this did not appear to be the destined seat for this vagrant people: the Maroons became a burden to the government of Nova Scotia, and proposals were made for their reception to the Sierra Leone company.

The directors of the company being promised payment of the expences incurred in settling them in Africa, consented to receive them: they embarked at Halifax in the autumn of 1800, and arrived at Sierra Leone in October. The House of Assembly had now disburthened the island of all concern with those rebellious people, and the prosperity of Jamaica seemed fixed from the time of their removal. On their arrival at Sierra Leone, an insurrection had taken place among the Nova Scotians, who understanding that the introduction of the Maroons was intended more firmly to establish the authority of government, had endeavoured to possess themselves of the island. The Maroons, instead of joining the insurgents, people of their own complexion, to extirpate the whites, engaged with alacrity in quelling the rebellion. This is a proof to what good purposes a wise government may convert rebellious and discontented subjects; but, instead of checking rebellion, they were found ever ready to encourage it: indeed, their hatred against the planters, whom they regarded as their ancient tyrants and plunderers, is a sufficient explanation of their unwillingness to do for them what they readily undertook for the Sierra Leone company. Such is the account of the Maroons, which it has cost us some labour to glean and connect from the work before us. In their present settlement we find them no less changed in character than in place; from rebels they have become the scourge of rebellion; from ferocious plunderers they are transformed to quiet settlers and peaceable subjects. It is pleasing to contemplate in this light a people whom we have long been accustomed to dread as wedded to rebellion. There are many generous traits of character in the Maroons which, in some degree, compensate their other qualities: active and intrepid, they are prodigal of life; confident of their strength, they are proud of independence. The virtues of a barbarian are generally summed up in his courage; this, indeed, is the parent-stock of every noble trait in his character: the qualities which recommend the Maroon to our esteem may likewise be traced to this source. They are said universally to harbour a desire of returning to Jamaica, and are thus induced with more difficulty to labour for the improvement of their plantations by the prospect of future benefits.

Perhaps, in the revolution of ages, Africa may owe its progress in social blessings to the Maroons; that quarter of the globe, in which the light of science is extinguished, may reasonably be supposed, in its turn, to have the same chance of civilization with the rest of the world.

Hic nos primus equis oriens afflavit anhelis,
Illic sera rubens candescet lumine vesper.

This work of Mr. D. which we have perused with much attention, must now be dismissed, but not without some mark of our gratitude for the entertainment he has afforded us. We shall, therefore, recommend it to our readers, as giving a full and accurate account of the rebellion of a people, whom we have long been taught to consider as monsters of ferocity: whom we trace through a series of progressive wars to their dispersion and settlement on a distant coast, where, though formerly rebels themselves, they are now employed as the scourge of rebellion in others; and, though once a band of sanguinary robbers, are now cultivating the quiet arts of life, and assisting the peaceful progress of civilization. Though the style in which this work is written has not much of the dignity of history, it is, nevertheless, sufficiently simple, easy, and perspicuous. Mr. Dallas will encrease his fame by the present production, as he has added to the general stock of pleasure and instruction. The work is accompanied with an excellent map of Jamaica, and one representing the seat of the Maroon war; the frontispieces to each volume are admirably executed.

Georgical

Georgical Essays. By A. Hunter, M. D. F. R. S. L. & E. 4 vols. 8vo. 2l. 2s. boards. Mawman. 1803.

AGRICULTURE, says Sully, is the breast from which the state draws its nourishment. Kingdoms may be rich in every thing, but without the riches of nature, their prosperity and happiness must be precarious. Agriculture is the basis of all wealth, because that of existence itself. Commerce and manufactures may enrich us, but the produce and fertility of our land can alone make us independent. Sellers are dependent upon buyers, and unless we have a market for our commodities, what becomes of our commercial glory? Caprice and disgust may turn our present consumers to other markets, and nations rivalling us in skill may attack us by competition. That commerce does not always flow in the same channel, we have a memorable example in the decline of the towns of the Hanseatic league: feeling, therefore, the spirit of prescience coming upon us, we shall exclaim, in the words of this author,

"Ye generous Britons, venerate the plough."

In the preface to this work, part of which it is necessary to abstract, the author gives some account of the origin of his undertaking.

In the year 1770, it seems, a few gentlemen formed themselves into a society at York, for the purpose of giving encouragement to agriculture. This society agreed to prefix their respective signatures to all the papers read at their board, and, that such as were thought of distinguished merit, should be published in a work bearing the title of Georgical Essays; but part of a work so well conceived, and which, by the product of one volume, had been proved by the favourable judgment of the public as well executed, was frustrated by the death of many of the members of the society, and one memorial of their industry and attention is all that exists. In this publication the present author had a considerable share; and, feeling an honourable impulse to rescue from oblivion labours so eminently beneficial, he has engaged in the undertaking with the view of making it the basis of his own work.... 'It is my intention,' says he, 'to draw into one focus all that is widely dif-'fused through numberless volumes of agricultural information; and in so 'doing, I expect to be able to exhibit to the favourers of agriculture a field 'well cultivated, and free from all unsightly and noxious weeds.' In this collection all is not original matter; many of the papers have been published in different periodical works.

A system of agriculture has long been wanted and candour obliges us to confess, that in the theory and practice of this useful art the French writers have excelled our own. M. de Chateauvieux and Duhamel are the greatest ornaments of their country; they have opened the way to the knowledge of a science which defies every hyperbole of praise, and have directed what was before little more than instinct in the husbandman to rational improvements founded upon experience. To labour, and till the ground for support, was the curse entailed by divine justice on the posterity of Adam. Thus, from the earliest periods, agriculture has been the employment of the sons of men, and may deservedly claim priority over every other science; but, what necessity constantly enforced as the object of unremitting attention, does not appear to have improved in proportion to the other arts; whilst the other sciences were advancing to perfection, agriculture continued in its infancy, and the art most necessary to the preservation of life was that which was least cultivated.

The husbandman of one age but rarely improved upon the practice of the preceding; and, whatever might be his natural sagacity, it was seldom thought fit to direct it—but, being under the guidance of interest, which is seldom blind, it was left to pursue its own path untutored and unassisted.

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The laborious part of husbandry has, indeed, been confined to the poorest and most unenlightened individuals; but the superintendance of their labours has belonged to such as were capable of directing it with more advantage to themselves, and more facility to their servants; but, in the class of farmers, prejudice is, perhaps, more obstinate than in any other rank of men: inveterate in their former practice, they superciliously rejected innovation, and regarded it as a stain upon their ancestors to attempt to correct their established maxims, by mingling them with modern improvements. These prejudices extended not only to the rejection of all improved methods in cultivating land, but to a sturdy discountenance even of those agricultural machines which the mechanic had supplied to facilitate the labour of the the husbandmen, and it was some time before inventions so obviously useful were barely admitted. It was not till those, whom we call gentlemen farmers, took upon themselves the cultivation of their own land, that any great improvements were made in agriculture; but, since that favourable period for the happiness and prosperity of the kingdom, a rapid advance has been made in the knowledge of this art. The establishment of the Board of Agriculture must not be omitted; a society to the same effect had long been established in the neighbouring kingdom, which had to boast, as enrolled among its members, the peers and princes of the realm. In England the same advantages were expected to flow from an institution upon the same principles, and, happily, the nation has not been disappointed.

Method, in a work of this nature, is of the first importance, but this is not much observed. The work is divided into books, for which there is no reason why one should precede, or the other follow. The second division is into chapters, which are almost independent and unconnected with each other: the work may, therefore, be considered rather a compilation of detached essays, than a system proceeding in a regular chain from parts to a general result. It must be considered, however, that they were written by separate hands; and, as good is never without its alloy, this evil must be pardoned as arising from necessity. The contributors to this work are numerous, but they deserved to be mentioned.

At the head, and most distinguished, stands Dr. Hunter himself; then follow several others, whom we confess ourselves at a loss in what manner to arrange suitably to their respective merits. Among the contributors are Messrs. Harrison, Haliday, J. S. Morrit, Dr. Grieve, Rev. Robert Pierson, Dr. Anslie, Mr. Townley, Sir T. Methuen Poore, Rev. Mr. Dickson, Mr. Baldwin, Dr. Percival.

In the fourth essay of the second book, Dr. Hunter details many experiments in agriculture which deserve generally to be known; these experiments are to the number of 55, and are, in our opinion, a most valuable accession to the practical knowledge of agriculture. It is difficult to select where merit is so general and regular, but we cannot avoid recommending with earnestness to the attention of the farmer, the following essays:—Experiment 2. On manuring meadow land—13. How to improve the turf of poor pasture land—22. A comparative view of the three different methods of sowing barley—26. On sowing turnips for late feeding—27. On feeding sheep, and a substitute for folding—29. On malt-dust as a manure—30. A method of making excellent butter from the milk of cows fed upon turnips—50. On dibbling wheat—51 On gleaning land—53. A comparative review of manures—55. On fattening hogs.

We must now regain the thread of our contributors—the Rev. Mr. Buxton, Mr. Bayley, Arthur Young, Esq. James Farquharson, Dr. Bell, Dr. Thompson, Mr. Henry, Mr. Speechly, Mr. de Salis, the Earl of Winchilsea, the Rev. Mr. Holmes, Mr. John Brown, Mr. Curtis, Mr. Somerville, Mr. Fairley, Rev. Edmund Cartwright, Mr. Wright, Dr. White, Mr.

Mr. Smyth, Mr. Forsyth, and Dr. Anderson. There are many others but we cannot afford room for their names, and the reader will be desirous of an extract. We shall therefore present him with one from Essay 18 of the second volume, by Dr. Hunter; the subject is upon cottages with gardens.

'As it seems to be the disposition of gentlemen to erect cottages upon 'their estates, with small portions of lands to be formed into gardens, I 'shall here present the industrious labourer with a plan to direct his labours 'throughout the year. Some people may object to this method of better-'ing the condition of the cottager; conceiving it may be the means of a-'bating his industry, as a labourer, in the service of the farmer; but, it is experimentally proved, that a day-labourer, with an industrious family, has 'a sufficiency of time for the management of a small garden...If the cottage 'be remote from a market town, it will be better that the garden should con-'tain nothing but what may be consumed by the family, turnips, cabbages, '&c. &c. Thus circumstanced the bond of union between the day labourer 'and his employer, will be firm and lasting; but when land is added to the 'cottage, for the support of one or two cows, the whole system is changed, 'and the cottager is made to approach too near to the small farmer, who is 'known to drag out a miserable life between poverty and hard working. 'When the day-labourer is able to purchase a cow, it should always be kept 'by the farmer, and paid for out of his weekly earnings; this is upon the 'supposition that the cottager has an industrious family, and is rising in the 'world in consequence of his industry and attention.' The doctor then introduces the history of a poor man named Britton Abbot, in confirmation of his principle.—'His age is sixty-nine, and his wife's nearly the same. At 'nine years old he had gone to work with a farmer; and being a careful 'steady lad, and a good labourer, particularly in what is called task-work, 'he had managed so well, that before he was twenty-two years of age, he 'had accumulated near 40l. He then married, and took a little farm about '30l. a year, and before the end of the second year, he found it prudent, or 'rather necessary, to quit it; having already exhausted, in his attempt to 'thrive upon it, almost all the little property he had heaped together. He 'then fixed in a cottage at Poppleton; where with two acres of land, and 'his common-right, he kept two cows. Here he had resided very com-'fortably, as a labourer, for nine years, and had six children, when an en-'closure of Poppleton took place, and he was obliged to seek for a new ha-'bitation, and other means of subsistence for his family.

'He applied to Squire Fairfax, and told him if he would let him have a 'bit of ground by the road-side, 'he would shew him the *fashions* on it.' 'After enquiry into his character he obtained from Mr. Fairfax the ground 'he now occupies; and with a little assistance from the neighbours in the 'carriage of his materials, he built his present house, and planted the gar-'den and hedge round it. Mr. Fairfax was so much pleased with the pro-'gress of his work, and the extreme neatness of the place, that he told him 'he should be rent free...His answer deserves to be remembered...'Now, 'sir, that you have a pleasure in seeing my cottage and garden neat, why 'should not other squires have the same pleasure, in seeing the cottages and 'gardens as nice about them? the poor would then be happy.'—He has se-'ven children who are all thriving in the world...Britton Abbot says he now 'earns from 12 to 18 shillings per week for hoeing turnips, but to be sure, 'he adds, 'I have a grand character in all this country.' He gets from 'his garden annually about 40 bushels of potatoes, besides other vegetables, 'and his fruit, in a good year, is worth from 3 to 4l. His wife occasionally 'goes out to work; she also spins at home, and takes care of his house and 'garden.—Neither he nor any part of his family has ever had occasion to 'apply for parochial relief.'

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The author then proceeds to his observations on the history of this man, and seems to think the reason why the poor do not exert themselves, and have little forethought and management, is in the system of the poor laws, and the *manner* in which they are executed. He advises that only a tenth of the money, which is spent in workhouses, be applied in assisting and encouraging the poor to thrive in their cottages, and the rates will thus be lessened, and a national saving made both in labour and food.

Among the many alleviations of the miseries of the poor this might be attempted, but we doubt the good effect of the plan. In parishes where there are no workhouses, and there are many in the kingdom which either have them not, or have them too small for all their poor, parochial relief is given at their own houses, and has been uniformly found to counteract the end for which it is bestowed. Workhouses are necessary to defeat the pretences of poverty, and the fear of being driven to them prevents the poor from soliciting assistance whilst they can do without it. If, therefore, the practice became general of giving relief at home, innumerable would be their tricks and pretences, and the bounty of the parish would operate more than ever as an encouragement to fraud and idleness. The doctor puts the following case...Suppose the poor's rates of a parish, so applied, to be 600l. a year; and that 60l. a year of the rate were to be annually employed in assisting the most industrious and deserving labourers to become possessors of cottages and cows: I am confident the poor's-rates of that parish would be greatly diminished in a few years; probably to half its present amount.

Taken with some limitations this advice is undoubtedly good; but if once admitted how far would the principle extend?..Such bounty could never with any propriety be called *parochial*, because given to those who neither want nor solicit assistance, and from the sole view of helping them forward in life. A practice of this kind should be left to the charity of individuals, and the funds of the parish, according to their proper designation, be preserved for more immediate distress...Moreover, what a field would this open to private partiality in selecting the objects of the bounty; and supposing the gratuity abused, which it certainly would be in many cases, the parish is equally bound to relieve all descriptions of paupers, as well deserving as undeserving.

The chief causes which have retarded the advancement of agriculture are thus stated by the author. 1st. The extreme difficulty of the study of agriculture. 2nd. The want of proper masters to unfold its principles, as in other branches of experimental philosophy: and 3d. the great reluctance of farmers to quit the beaten track. The doctor then enlarges upon the utility of chemistry to the thorough comprehension of this useful art.—'It is not 'expected, says he, that every husbandman should be a profound chemist, 'but I will venture to say, that every gentleman who wishes to improve his 'estate, and to advance the arts of agriculture, ought to be well versed, at 'least, in the principles of philosophical chemistry; without which he can 'neither conduct experiments properly, nor explain the several phœnome-'na satisfactorily which result from them.' He then briefly mentions the uses of chemistry, which our limits will not permit us to detail, and recommends a course of lectures on the subject of applying chemistry to the improvement of agriculture. 'This, says he, would be a great national ac-'quisition, and convey the most interesting information to the various ranks 'of mankind, and particularly to the country gentleman, the intelligent farm-'er, and curious artizan. Few there are, it is hoped, but will readily spare 'a small portion of their time, to partake of so useful, and so elegant an a-'musement.'

If a scheme of this nature ever was necessary, it seems to be peculiarly so at this juncture. Since we have been stript of our American colonies, and many

many sources of our wealth and commerce been diverted into other channels, it surely behoves us to employ those which remain to the best advantage. If any thing can enable us to support our present enormous burthen, or maintain our national character, it must be a strict attention to the improvement of agriculture, and useful arts.'

In vol. 4. we shall recommend some few essays to particular attention. Essay 3, on the œconomy necessary for gentlemen entering upon small estates. Essay 7, by Nathaniel Kent, Esq. upon his majesty's farm upon Windsor forest. Essay 10, on the husbandry proper for a gentleman, and essay 24 by Dr. Falconer: on the preservation of the health of persons employed in agriculture, and the cure of diseases incident to that way of life. This volume contains an account of many beneficial experiments and concise agricultural observations,—and the whole work concludes with the following address by Dr. Hunter. 'Having now brought these essays to a conclusion, 'I have nothing left but to express an anxious concern, lest I may have in-'serted papers that, in the opinion of well informed persons, may be deemed 'unworthy of preservation. Some may think that I have attended too little 'to the practical part of agriculture; whilst others who amuse themselves 'with the theory of the art, will be disposed to approve of what I have 'done. Of this matter my opinion is that theory and practice ought to be 'blended together, as they do not admit of separation, the one being im-'perfect without the other. How far I have succeeded in my attempt, 'must be left for the decision of those for whom the work is constructed. As 'this selection contains many original papers, I shall be happy to see them 'as generally diffused as possible; for which reason I embrace the oppor-'tunity of freely offering them to the editors of agricultural publications, in 'order to answer the liberal end of universal communication. In order to 'mark the progress of agricultural improvements, I have it in contempla-'tion to publish two volumes, annually, in the manner of this selection; but 'in the execution of the design I shall be directed by the opinion that the 'public may entertain of the present publication."

Of the general utility of this work there can be but one opinion, of the manner in which it is executed there will probably be many; but all the candid must concur that the author deserves thanks for his undertaking, and encouragement to persevere in the plan he proposes. Our greatest objection to the book is, that it wants system; that it is a collection of loose and detached essays, in which, indeed, is contained much valuable agricultural knowledge, but wholly without arrangement. It does not, as may be supposed, teach the art of farming, and will not therefore be consulted as an elementary book. A work of more principle,—a kind of grammar of agriculture is yet wanting, and we confess ourselves a little disappointed in the present publication because it has not supplied the wants which we most feel. As it is composed by a variety of hands it is unnecessary to criticise the style and sentiment, but the several writers might undoubtedly improve in both. The work is well printed and accompanied by explanatory plates; such is the eagerness with which agricultural information is sought that we are mistaken if it meets not a warm reception from the public, and Dr. Hunter need not doubt but the two annual volumes he has promised, will be demanded of him at the stated time.

Travels of four Years and a half in the United States of America, during 1798, 1799, 1800, 1801, *and* 1802. *Dedicated, by permission, to Thomas Jefferson, Esq. President of the United States. By John Davis.* 8vo. 454 pages. Ostell, 1803.

THIS gentleman is of the *genus mediocre*, and disgusts us on the first advance we make in his work. His preface is replete with the most nauseous

vanity, and contains many opinions which we are called upon to examine... Having spoken slightingly of all his predecessors, and condemned them without rule or principle in the gross, he proceeds to assure the reader that in this volume he will find himself exempt from various persecutions.

'1st. says he, I make no mention of my dinner, whether it was fish or 'flesh, boiled or roasted, hot or cold...2d. I never complain of my bed, 'nor fill the imagination of the reader with mosquitoes, fleas, bugs, and other 'nocturnal pests...3. I make no drawings of old castles, old churches, old 'penthouses, and old walls, which, undeserving of repair, have been aban- 'doned by their possessors. Let them be sacred to the *Welch* tourists, the 'Scotch tourist, and *id genus omne*. 4. In treating common subjects, I do 'not accumulate magnificent epithets, and lose myself in figures.'

Great part of this is said with as much petulance as folly; and nothing is so injudicious in an author as making a long catalogue of the defects of his predecessors, and posting his own imputed excellencies against them. But we cannot allow that many of those relations, of which he promises to give us none in his own volume, are to be altogether condemned in other travellers. It is surely no great excellence in an historian that he is no antiquary, and his book is not likely to be diminished in value, because it happens to contain valuable drawings of subjects interesting to every man of taste and science. The Welch tourists, indeed, have been too generally partial to antiquities, but it was from the want of other interesting matter; and much amusement could not be expected in describing the manners of a people so little dissimilar from ourselves. This sarcasm against Scotch and Welch tourists seems thrown out without reason. In travels through America, indeed, much knowledge of antiquities is not demanded; in countries where architecture has scarcely made its way, it is not probable the author would be called upon to describe ruined towers and old castles.

We are glad to hear him say, that he does not accumulate magnificent epithets, and lose himself in figures, but we would rather have found this out ourselves. But another instance of this writer's self sufficiency..' That this 'volume, says he, will regale curiosity, while man continues to be influenced 'by his senses and affections, I have very little doubt. It will be recurred 'to with equal interest on the banks of the Thames, and those of the Ohio. 'This kind of biography, when characterised by simplicity and truth, has 'more charms for the multitude than a pompous history of the in- 'trigues of courts, the negotiations of statesmen, and the devastations of 'armies.

'The memoirs of Franklin, the printer, come more home to my feelings 'than the history of Sir Robert Walpole's administration, I behold the con- 'cluding page of the one with the same eye of sorrow, that the traveller 'in the woods of America casts upon the sun's departing rays." The author tell us he does not lose himself in figures, but he has not so strictly abstained from the use of those which belong to others: the first we meet in his book is transplanted from Dr. Johnson, of whose style, with many of the authors of the day, he is a ridiculous imitator. His sentences are in the same formal phraseology, his periods rounded in the same manner, and his antithesis formed upon the model of his master. But in the nervous sentiment which sustained the style of Johnson he is wretchedly defective. He proceeds— 'Though my mode of life has not been favourable to the cultivation of an ele- 'gant style, yet in what relates to the structure of my sentences, I shall not 'fear competition with those who have reposed from their youth under the '*shade of academic bowers.*' This, if we are not mistaken is another of Johnson's expressions, and an example of egregious vanity in the author. It is for coxcombs like these that the terrors of criticism are reserved. Mr. Davis need not have told us that he had not the advantage of a collegiate education.

But making allowances for his self-sufficiency, his book will be found entertaining, his observations general, and his reflections, though light, useful.—Speaking of the narrow economical policy of the Americans, he observes..'It appears to me, that the president's salary is not adequate to his house..The one is very circumscribed; the other of vast dimensions." This is the very rage of antithesis, and the author has seldom shewn himself more awkward..'It is a shallow policy in a government which makes money the chief 'good.' For this sentiment, expressed almost in the same manner, see Johnson's life of Milton...Every page almost exhibits some stealth or imitation from this author..'The salary allowed the president is only twenty-five 'thousand dollars a year; that is about 5,300l. sterling, a sum that may en-'able him to ask a friend to dine with him *pic nic*, but will not qualify him 'to impress a foreign ambassador with much veneration for the first execu-'tive office of America. It may be advanced, that it is not expected from 'a republican magistrate to regale his guests out of a gold cup. But for 'the manners of a republican chief, to be absolutely characteristical, he 'ought, like Fabricius, to pare his own turnips, and boil them him-'self.

'To Franklin must we look for the source of this sordid oeconomy. It 'was he who, by diffusing the maxims of poor Richard, made the govern-'ment of the United States a miserly body politic; tenacious of a farthing, 'or, in popular language, a nation penny wise, and pound foolish. Franklin 'when a child, delighted to hawk ballads for a halfpenny, and when he be-'came a man, to save the expence of an errand boy, he trundled his 'wheel-barrow through the streets.

'Notwithstanding the vaunted philosophy of Franklin, and his disco-'veries in electricity, he is certainly at best but an ambiguous charac-'ter. His dereliction of religion has already done more injury to the ris-'ing generation in America, than his maxims will do good Where Frank-'lin has made one man frugal, he has converted a hundred men to deism...I heard the infidel Palmer, at New-York, enjoin his hearers no 'longer to suffer passively the flagrant imposition of the scriptures, but 'catch a portion of the spirit of a Franklin, and avow themselves 'the disciples of natural religion..and, I doubt not, but this argument 'of this preacher succeeded; for where a man has one vice of his own, 'he gets twenty by adoption.' Our desire to do justice to this author inclines us to give the reader another extract from his work; and we here wish it to be observed that our censure is confined to his vanity alone; we can allow him a little plagiarism, and some singularity of opinion, self-sufficiency can never be permitted to escape the vengeance of critici...

'I remember says he, with lively pleasure, my residence in the woods 'of South Carolina—enjoying health in its *plenitude*, yet young enough to re-'ceive new impressions; cultivating daily my taste by the study of polite 'literature; blest with the friendship of a George, and living in the bosom 'of a family unruffled by domestic cares; how could I be otherwise than 'happy, and how can I refrain from the pleasures of retrospection.

'Coosohatchie, thou shalt not be unknown, if, by what eloquence nature 'has given me, I can call forth the corresponding emotions in the breast of my 'reader to those which my own felt when wandering silently through thy 'woods. My pupils, in the woods of Coosohatchie consisted of a boy and 'two young ladies. William Henry was an interesting lad of fourteen, in-'genous of disposition, and a stranger to fear. He was fond to excess of the 'chase. His heart danced with joy at the mention of a deer; and he blew his 'horn, called together his dogs, and hooped and halloed in the woods, with an 'animation which would have done honour to the veteran sportsman. O! 'for the muse of an Ovid, to describe the dogs of this young Acteon. There

'were Sweet-lips, and Ringwood, and Music, and Smoker, whose barking 'was enough to frighten the wood-nymphs to their caves. His eldest sister, 'Maria, though not a regular beauty, was remarkable for her dark eyes, and 'white teeth, and what was not less captivating, an amiable temper. She 'was grateful to me for my instruction, and imposed silence on her brother 'when I invoked the muse in school. But it was difficult to controul her 'little sister Sally, whom in sport and wantonness they called Tibousa. This 'little girl was distinguished by the languish of her blue eyes, from which, 'however, she could dart fire when William offended her; Sally was a charm-'ing girl, whose beauty promised to be equal to that of her mother. That 'I passed many happy hours in watching and assisting the progress of the 'minds of these young people, I feel no repugnance to acknowledge. My 'long residence in a country where *honour and shame from no condition rise*, has 'placed me above the ridiculous pride of owning the situation of Tutor. 'Though the plantation of Mr. Drayton was immense, his dwelling was 'only a log-house; a temporary fabric built to reside in during the winter. 'But his table was sumptuous, and an elegance of manners presided at it that 'might have vied with the highest circles of polished Europe.

'It is usual in Carolina to sit an hour at table after supper; at least it was 'our custom in the woods of Coosohatchie. It was then I related my ad-'ventures to Mr. and Mrs. Drayton, in the eastern section of the globe, who 'not only endured my tales, but were elated by my successes, and depress-'ed by misfortunes. About ten I withdrew to my chamber and my books, 'where I found a sparkling fire of wood, and where I *lucubrated*, smoked 'segars, and was lost in my own musings. The silence of the night invited 'meditation; but often was I to be seen at three in the morning sitting before 'my chamber fire, surrounded like a Magliabechi by my papers and my 'books. My study was latin, and my recreation the Confessions of the elo-'quent citizen of Geneva.'—The whole work is written in the same style, and the memoirs of the writer's life are intermixed with his travels. To some readers this vivacity will be pleasing, but others require a deeper observation and reflection than this author possesses; we reckon ourselves amongst the latter, and are thus obliged to qualify our praise of the present production.

A Tour through several of the Midland and Western departments of France, in the months of June, July, August, and September, 1802.---*With remarks on the manners, customs, and agriculture of the country. By the Rev. W. Hughes*; *illustrated by Engravings*---8vo. 238 pp.---*Ostell*, 1803.

THIS is a very interesting work, and abounds with so much novelty and good sense, that we are pleased with this opportunity of recommending it. Mr. Hughes's tour is through a part of France seldom visited by Englishmen; he had thus to survey untrodden ground; but he can lay claim to still greater merit in producing unhacknied observations, and reflections at once just and original. Where there is much to see and report, there is ample room for novelty, and too often for misrepresentation. But as far as our own observation goes, facts are reported with fidelity by this author, and his comments upon them are just and natural. We could wish indeed he had been a little more careful of his style, and particularly had not disfigured it by interlarding his sentences with scraps of French; but this is a slight objection against so much merit. We shall present our readers with a short extract from this work:—Speaking of the manners of the French, he says, "it is seldom now 'that affection enters at all into the nuptial bargain, or fidelity is expected. 'The ladies, without scruple, avow it to be a mere matter of convenience; 'and, if the particular views with which it is contracted be but answered, 'every thing else is out of the question. Should a female happen to trip before

'before she has quitted the parental for the husband's wing, she is lost for ever; 'but being once dubbed *Madame*, if she follows the particular predilection of 'her heart, why there is no great harm done. Monsieur, assuredly, does the 'same; and, by a sort of tacit compromise, they contrive to jog on together 'without incommoding each other with curtain lectures and domestic squabbles. 'The reputation of neither of them is tarnished; nor will such a conduct ex-'clude them from any circle or society; and, should the phenomenon some-'times appear, in the Parisian Hemisphere, that either of them winces at the 'partition of the others favours, the tribunals are open, and, till the consular 'government wisely restrained the facility of divorce, an expence of five 'pounds will at any time radically cure a domestic torment.

'To the fashionable modes of married life, the houses of the French gentry, 'especially their rural chateaus, are admirably adapted. Monsieur occupies 'one extremity, Madame the other, and neither of them presumes to intrude un-'bidden on each others privacies; *un peu triste*, or with no more pleasing companion 'at hand *pour dissiper l'ennui*, a formal message is dispatched, drawn up accord-'ing to the most correct propriety of the etiquette, and most humbly soliciting 'the permission to do themselves the honour of waiting the one upon the 'other; and if, at any time, the *brusque etourdu*, forgetting every rule of polite-'ness happens to bounce into my lady's dressing-room, or into the *sanctum 'sanctorum*, and there stumbles on her *cher ami*; instead of tumbling his stubsti-'tute out of the window, he begs ten thousand pardons for interrupting the '*tete a tete*—feels infinitely obliged to the gentleman for politely taking the 'trouble of passing a judgment upon the lady's ornaments—takes up his hat, 'and quits the premises."

We scarcely recollect ever to have met with a Tour in France so full of useful information and amusement as the present. Mr. Hughes thought it necessary to apologise for presenting it to the public; they might reasonably lament had he been persuaded to withold it.

A General History of Mathematics, from the earliest times to the middle of the Eighteenth Century. Translated from the French of John Bossut, Member of the National Institute of Arts and Sciences, and of the Academies of Bologna, Petersburgh, Turin, &c. &c. To which is prefixed a Chronological Table of the most eminent Mathematicians. 2 vol. 8vo. Johnson, 1803.

WHILE every other branch of knowledge has been the subject of history, it is strange that one, to which we more particularly owe the present perfection and exactness of human reason, should have been so long neglected, and that, till within these few years, no regular history of the origin and progress of mathematics should have been attempted by the scholars of any age or country. Mathematics are truly called the leading part of philosophy; the history of their progress is that of the advancement of human reason, and it is unquestionable that they do more to strengthen and expand the mind, than the whole mass of the rest of the human sciences put together. The object of Mr. Bossut is not to give a minute history of the mathematics, but to consider the leading branches, and the chief consequences which flowed from them.

In his introduction he takes a general view of the mathematical sciences, and the nations by whom they were first cultivated: he then divides his review into different periods, in which he considers the state of the mathematics at each particular æra.

Period the first contains an account of the state of the mathematics, from their origin to the destruction of the Alexandrian school—Period the second gives the state of the mathematics, from their revival among the Arabs to the end of the fifteenth century—Period the third relates the progress of the mathematics,

mathematics, from the end of the fifteenth century to the invention of the method of fluxions—Period the fourth proceeds with the advancement of mathematics, from the discovery of fluxions to the present day.

Such are the contents of this book, which has lost nothing by falling into the hands of Mr. Bonnycastle. M. Bossut tells us, in his preface, that he has made a sketch which he intends to publish under the title of considerations on the present state of mathematics—'This,' says the editor, 'I take the liberty 'of adding, by way of note, that I can have no doubt but the projected 'work here mentioned, by M. Bossut, would prove highly acceptable to 'mathematicians, and that many of them will wish it may be speedily exe-'cuted.' Our limits will not permit a full examination of the present work, but we can safely recommend it to the students of philosophy.

Account of the Life and Writings of Thomas Reid, D. D. F. R. S. Edinburgh. By Dugdale Stewart, Edinburgh. 8vo. 222 pp. 5s. boards. Longman and Rees. 1803.

THE introductory observation which we made in the review of Hayley's Life of Cowper may apply to the present work. This is likewise the life of an eminent writer by a man of similar genius with himself. It is observed, that few authors write their own lives, and that, whilst statesmen and generals give to the world their histories, the author, whose business it might more particularly be supposed to employ himself in this task, leaves no memorial behind him; and, not being able to gratify his vanity without trouble, commits all that can be said of him to be related by his successors.

The life of Dr. Reid was read at the different meetings of the Royal Society at Edinburgh. The present narrative, though it contains an account of his life, is more properly a review of his philosophy. The author has truly told us, that it is barren of those incidents which furnish materials for biography: it contains none of those vicissitudes that awake curiosity, or those involutions of fortune which excite our interest: it will be read rather as a task for instruction than amusement, and the catching name of biography will not delude through more than a dozen pages. The style, however, has the characteristic vigour of the author; and, the solid philosophy, which is the basis of the production, makes it a high treat to the man of science and the elegant scholar.

Poems on different Subjects. By Ferdinand Weston, Esq. Foolscap 8vo. 118 pp. 4s. boards. Longman and Rees. 1803.

THESE poems were written on different occasions, and many at the spur of the moment. It is unnecessary to observe of such compositions, that their principal merit is the suavity of the metre, and easiness of the sentiments. In long works, correctness must not be insisted upon too rigorously, and we cannot expect that every part should be polished with that care which we lay out on shorter compositions; bu', in works of this kind, superabundance of ornament is their chief merit; a trifle is to be raised into significance, and this cannot be effected without labour and a peculiar nicety of art. This author is a man of refined taste, and a poet with some originality: he is not indebted to his predecessors for hereditary imagery, but thinks from the stores of his own mind with a native vigour, and frequently with a very original turn of sentiment. Many of his odes are entitled to just commendation: it would be unjust not to extract some beautiful stanzas in his ode to health:

'ODE

'ODE 8th

'Daughter of heaven, Hygeia bright,
'Leave, O! leave thy kindred sky;
'Hither downward bend thy flight,
'To the aid of mortals fly.
'Come with rosy dimpled cheek,
'And with lips that sweetly smile,
'Lips, that when they move to speak,
'Care of all his frowns beguile:
'Come with eyes that, never dim,
'Mock the lustre of the skies,
'And with easy pliant limb,
'Aptly fram'd for exercise,
'Hither hasten nymph divine,
'Listen to a suppliant's prayer;
'Without thee see nature pine;
'Every joy gives place to care.
'Did we but the treasure know,
'Which, possessing, we despise,
'We should greater pains bestow,
'That we might secure the prize.'

The readers of poetry will have an exquisite treat in this little work, which we strongly recommend to their notice.

Six more Letters to Granville Sharpe, Esq. on his Remarks upon the Uses of the Article in the Greek Testament. By Gregory Blunt, Esq. 8vo. 195 pp. 4s. sewed. Johnson. 1803.

MR. SHARP's remarks on the definitive article, though published before our time, demand our warmest thanks: they afford many new proofs of the divinity of Christ, and serve no less to mark the elegant scholar, and acute grammarian, than the warm and sincere Christian. This question has likewise been agitated by the Rev. Thomas Burgess, prebendary of Durham; and, a Mr. C. Wordsworth, of Trinity College, Cambridge, was the author of some further supplementary observations, in support of Mr. Sharpe's opinion. The present author takes the contrary side; but we are stopt from examining him with the minuteness he intended, by a preliminary remark which we find in his second page—'The doctrine of the Trinity,' he says, 'is pretty generally admitted to be in its wane by critical scholars, and rational Christians, whose opinions are not specially retained, and whose 'judgment is not infected by the accommodating fever of a temporary orthodoxy.' This malignant and ill-founded observation is no less false in fact, than nonsensical in expression. 'Indeed,' he says, 'it should seem, 'from the apparent anxiety and distress of Mr. Sharpe and his associates, 'that these gentlemen considered themselves as physicians, whose assistance 'and skill were invited to consultation in articulo mortis.' The author proceeds in the same strain of clumsy irony, and grossly commits himself in his critical discussions, and ridiculous charges of interpolation. The name of Blunt we suppose is assumed, but we can give a shrewd guess at the author of these letters.

An Obstacle to the Ambition of France; or, Thoughts on the Expediency of improving the political Condition of his Majesty's Irish Roman Catholic Subjects. By Thomas Newnham, Esq. one of the Representatives of the Borough of Clonmell in the last Irish Parliament. 41 pp. 1s. 6d. Baldwin. 1803.

THIS is a sensible and well written pamphlet on a subject which has been before the public in many shapes. We agree with the author, that the Catholic

tholic question should not be deferred ad Kalendas Græcas, but its revival at the present moment would be extremely injudicious. If we have any objection to make to this pamphlet, it is that the author's reasoning is too general; he wanders into a maze of political first principles, and does not confine himself with sufficient closeness to his point. Abstract reasoning, in the question of the emancipation, determines the thing at once; but kingdoms are not to be ruled by abstract reasoning, but by political expediency, which is the test of the present discussion. His arguments that the king is not bound by his coronation oath to keep the Catholics in their present brutal slavery, are very well put. This foolish doctrine, so lately revived, seems a branch of

"The right divine of kings to govern wrong."

Essays on the Population of Ireland, and the Characters of the Irish. By a Member of the late Irish Parliament. 56 pp. 2s. Baldwin. 1803.

WE are given to understand that this pamphlet is likewise from the pen of Mr. Newnham. The subject is important, and deserves attention. The politician need not be told of the importance of population; and we have learned from experience, that the poverty of a kingdom is not so unfavourable to population as it might be supposed; but, though we cannot controvert the statements of this gentleman, we may be allowed to doubt them.—'I affirm, says he, 'that there are, at this day, upwards of five mil-'lions of people in Ireland; that, unless some powerful cause of population 'starts into existence, there will be found more than *seven millions* in the 'country before the lapse of twenty years!' This is a vigorous assertion, and we cannot help thinking with the man in the play, "*that the gentleman speaks in figure.*"

A Journal of Travels in Barbary in the Year 1801. *By James Curtis, Esq. with Observations on the Gum-trade of Senegal.* Foolscap 8vo. 4s. 6d. boards. Longman and Rees. 1803.

THE modesty of this author deserves the highest praise we can bestow; among the writers of the present day, who pant for a public exhibition of themselves in octavos and quartos, such humility is rarely seen, and deserves, therefore, the greater commendation. Travels of any kind, more particularly those in foreign countries, have seldom come to us in this size: but our present commendation is not due alone to the modesty of the author, but is a claim upon us for the entertainment we have found in his work. It is written in a light and easy manner, and contains much new and judicious observation; but his account of the gum trade of Senegal seems to us a mere translation from Golbery.

The Three Monks!!! From the French. By H. T. Sarret. 2 vols. 7s. Crosby. 1803.

WE have lately had so much of the horrors of the inquisition, the sacred priesthood, and monks of all description, that we took up these volumes with the expectation of finding them a-kin to what we have so frequently condemned. To please a man against his inclination is confessed impossible; and to remove stubborn prejudices is a matter of no small difficulty. This present author has not succeeded with us—for it has seldom fallen to our lot to read a story more immoral, or to meet with characters more profligate than those which the present work exhibits.

Lindor

Lindorf and Caroline; *or, the Danger of Credulity: a cabalistical Romance, in 3 vols. Translated from the German of Professor Kramer, Author of Herman of Unna.* 10s. 6d. Crosby. 1803.

WE have our doubts whether these volumes were translated from the German. It is certain they contain nothing which might be supposed to require the talents of a professor, or even of the author of Herman of Unna. Did we not know that the dignity of *professor* was prefixed to all German works with the same liberality as the name of *captain* to our travelling gentlemen, we should have been somewhat astonished; but, whether this novel was really written by a professor, we shall not enquire: it has no claim to distinction, otherwise than as professing to have been translated from the German, it may be supposed pregnant with horrors.

La Belle Sauvage. 2 vols. 7s. Lane and Newman. 1803.

IT is with most sincere satisfaction that we can recommend this production, equally laudable for the excellence of its moral, and the general spirit with which it is written. We regret that our limits will not permit us to give a detailed account of its plot. Its subject is the progress of a young rustic girl, very happily termed La Belle Sauvage, from her first simplicity, through all the gradations of fashionable attainments.

Peregrine; or, the Fool of Fortune, in 3 vols. 10s. 6d. Lane and Newman.

THE moral of this novel is equally excellent, and the wit and humour equally poignant and original as the work above mentioned. Incident is the life of a novel. and Peregrine goes through such a diversity of scenes, that scarcely a walk of life is left unexplored, from which the author has not gleaned materials of shrewd observation, and characteristic humour. The author's familiarity with men and manners, in almost every station, seems unbounded. Scarcely is there a character of distinction in the present day, but it is exhibited in these volumes, and that in so happy a manner, that few or none can take offence. Peregrine, in short, is a picture of living manners, and the writer might truly say—

'Quicquid agunt homines nostri farrago libelli est."

An Enquiry into the Necessity, Nature, and Evidences of Revealed Religion; *by Thomas Robinson, A. M. Rector of Ruan Minor, Cornwall.* 8vo. 300 pp. *Baldwin*, 1803.

THE author of these sermons is a man well qualified to illustrate and defend the truths to which his life has been devoted. He commences with the first principles of religion, and proceeds in regular gradation to examine all its collateral points. To assist him in this investigation he is possessed of a clear and manly eloquence, the erudition of a scholar, the taste of a man of genius, and the liberality of a true christian minister. The study of the truths of revelation, though always important, has become more so from the character of the present times. The arguments of our religious tenets should by the frequent renewal of discussion, be familiarized with the mind, and

more particularly at a time when infidelity has made such rapid strides, and rears a bolder front than at any other period.

To counteract these dangerous doctrines is the object of the present author, and the plan he has chosen is well digested and novel. Many works have lately appeared, defending with able and persuasive arguments the truths of religion, but they have almost uniformly wanted method and arrangement; they have been confined to particular discussions, and have not presented to the reader what was most wanted,—a connected subject of regular enquiry into the grounds of christianity. To this point the labour of the present author has been directed. He attempts to prove the incompetency of reason as a religious instructor without the aid of revelation, and shews the strength and solidity of the arguments on which religion rests. This is done in a clear and popular manner; in a style of vigorous compression and neat elegance. The author deserves the approbation of every pious man, and we here beg leave to offer him our best thanks.

The Marriage Promise, by John Till Allingham. 2s. 6d. Ridgeway.

WE gave some account of this play in our Magazine of last month, and its publication has now brought it under the notice of our review—we shall therefore observe two things—1st It is a very short play, and printed on indifferent paper; it should not therefore be sold for half a crown.—2nd We do not like this dedication to an actor. A Play which bears one, except under peculiar circumstances, carries its condemnation in front. But this practice, what it wants in propriety, makes up in gratitude. Our modern dramatists have need to be profuse of their acknowledgments to the players, for we can attribute the success of their pieces to nothing but the exertions of the actors. We do not know whether it can be an error of the press, but Knight-*errand* is twice put for Knight-errant.

FRENCH BOOKS.

Voyage a Madagascar, a Maroc et aux Indes Occidentales. Voyage to Madagascar, Morocco, and the East Indies; by Alexis Rochon, Member of the National Institute of France, and of the Academy of Petersburgh. In 3 vols. accompanied with a map of Madagascar, a chart of the East Indies, a vocabulary of Madagascar, astronomical tables, &c.

THE voyage to Madagascar appeared in the year 1791. It is preceded by a preliminary discourse principally devoted to the history of the discovery and colonisation of the isles of France and Reunion (formerly Bourbon) which are too near Madagascar not to have an immediate influence on any settlements that might be formed there. They were first visited by the Portuguese. Some French who quited Madagascar on account of its insalubrity, settled in the latter in 1664. Cerné or the isle of France was peopled by Dutch, who not liking the spot, abandoned it in 1712 and went to the Cape of Good Hope.

M. Rochon, calls to mind the services of the respectable Poivre, of whose friendship he boasts. He concludes with giving an account of the astronomical observations by which he determined the principal dangers of a more direct route than that followed in the two monsoons from the isle of France to the coasts of India. He likewise describes in a particular manner the islands and rocks situated to the north of that colony.

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The voyage commences by a description of Madagascar. Few countries are so rich in every kind of natural production. Here are found noble forests, useful gums, flax, hemp superior to the European, sugar-canes, wax, honey of various sorts, tobacco, indigo, white pepper, amber, ambergris, silky substances, cotton, an immense quantity of fishes, a multitude of birds affording delicious food, and amongst other things bats, the flesh of which is more delicate than that of the finest pullets; rock-crystal, granite, tin ore, iron ore in abundance, in the high mountains of Ambotismene, lastly innumerable vegetables most of which are yet unknown in Europe.

This island is divided between several tribes which have their respective chiefs. Its population is estimated at four millions of inhabitants. They have amongst them learned men, called *ombiases* who take advantage of their credulity to keep them in barbarism and superstition. In other respects they are not deficient either in taste or talent for mechanical arts; but the rudeness of their instruments, and the imperfection of their methods cause them a considerable loss of time.

'Plurality of wives is not rare amongst the chiefs and opulent men: yet 'they marry only one in a legal manner; the others are considered as con-'cubines. At Madagascar this custom is not attended with any very dis-'agreeable circumstances. All these women live in harmony together. A 'divorce takes place whenever the conjugal union is displeasing either to the 'husband or wife, but on these occasions the dowry they receive is returned. 'The adulterer is punished and regarded as a thief; therefore these people en-'tertain a high regard for the marriage state. They caution strangers to respect 'their wives, but they offer them their daughters, and think themselves honor-'ed when the latter have children by them. Married women are distinguish-'ed by wearing their hair plaited and tied in the form of a bunch at the 'crown of their head; the girls suffer it to fall carlessly on their shoulders. 'The men are always happy in the company of their wives; their presence 'puts them in spirits. They dance and sing as soon as they see them, repeat-'ing incessantly that they beguile the tediousness of life. When they are gone 'out to war, the women never cease dancing and singing in the day time, and 'even during a great part of the night. They imagine that these continued 'dances animate their husbands, and encrease their strength and courage. 'They scarcely allow themselves time for refreshment.'

There exists a history of Madagascar, published in 1658 by Flacourt, director-general of the French East India Company, and Commandant for the King, of Madagascar and the adjacent islands. This author has described the natives of Madagascar as the most perverse, the greatest rogues and parasites of mankind. M. Rochon asserts that this charge is unfounded. He proves that establishments formed at Madagascar have failed, not in consequence of the treachery of the natives, but the tyrannic conduct of the governors, and particularly of the missionaries.

After recommending to the Europeans in general to adopt principles of more humanity and justice in their colonial enterprizes, and to communicate their industry and knowledge to savage nations, instead of oppressing them; M. Rochon expresses his regret at the loss of the papers of M. Commerson, a celebrated naturalist, who had made important researches at Madagascar. Of the fruit of his labours, scarcely any thing has been preserved, but the following note concerning the Quimosses, a pigmy race in the interior of the island.

'Their natural or distinguishing characteristics are that they are white 'or at least of a paler colour than any blacks we are acquainted with; that they 'have very long arms so that they can touch their knee with their hands when 'erect, and that in the females, the sex is scarcely marked by the breasts ex-'cepting when they suckle. With regard to their intellectual faculties, these

'Quimosses are superior in understanding and address to other natives of Ma-
'dagascar. They are likewise much more active and warlike. Though attack-
'ed with very unequal forces and weapons (for they do not use powder and fire
'arms like their enemies) they have always defended themselves with cou-
'rage, and preserved their independence amid their native rocks, which by
'their difficulty of access have doubtless contributed greatly to their pre-
'servation.

'The Count de Modave, governor of Fort Dauphin, in 1770, shewed me
'among his slaves a Quimosse woman, three feet seven inches high, with a
'complexion lighter than any I have seen among the natives of this island.
'I observed that though small in stature, she was well made, excepting that
'her arms were very long, reaching to the bend of the knee without stoop-
'ing; that her hair was short and woolly; her features very good, resembling
'rather those of an European than of a native of Madagascar; that she had
'naturally a smiling countenance, a mild and gentle disposition, and a good
'sense to judge by her conduct.'

Flacourt denies the existence of these people, but it apears to be confirmed by this note, and the results of an expedion expressly sent out for the purpose by M. Modave.

This singular account is succeeded by some specimens of the eloquence of the natives, and a detailed history of the settlement formed by Count Benyowsky in the northern part of Madagascar during the ministry of M. de Boyne; a settlement which cost immense sums, had no success and experienced a tragical fate.

A list of vegetables growing in the northern part of Madagascar concludes this narrative, to which is annexed, for what reason it is not easy to guess, a description of Cochinchina.

'The latter country is composed of 11 Provinces. The capital is called
'Hue. The King who possesses very great power, keeps upwards of 400
'Elephants trained to war. The power of his kingdom consists in the number
'of these animals. He is exceedingly rich. All his subjects from the age of
'of 19 to 60 pay him a yearly tribute.

'The Cochin-chinese nearly resemble the Chinese in figure, but they have
'rather darker complexions, are brave, active, and laborious in comparison to
'the Indians. Polygamy is common among them, and the laws give them great
'authority over their wives. Those convicted of infidelity are condemned to
'be torn to pieces by elephants. The religion is the same as in China. The
'limits of their knowledge extend only to reading Chinese books.

'The cultivated land is very fertile. The forests yield a considerable pro-
'duce. The mountains contain gold mines. All the trade is in the hands
'of the Chinese, who impose on the good faith of the natives. The latter
'hold in great request every thing that comes from Europe.'

At the beginning of the second volume M. Rochon has placed the vocabulary of Madagascar, announced in the title, but he has forgotten to mention that this vocabulary, excepting some transpositions, errors, and very important omissions, is copied from a work by Flacourt, entitled; Dictionary of the language of Madagascar, with a vocabulary of proper names, and terms for things of the same kind; besides a few words of the languages of the Savages of the bay of Sardinia, at the cape of Good Hope, the catechism and prayers which the missionaries teach the proselytes of that island to repeat, &c. Paris 1658. Yet as that dictionary is become extremely scarce M. Rochon deserves the thanks of the public for having reprinted the most interesting part of it.

But he has still stronger claims for the many useful things contained in the preliminary discourse to the voyage to Morocco. He there shews the importance of astronomical observations at sea, points out various methods of

preserving the health of the ships' crews, and of keeping provisions from putrefaction. He likewise proposes to the French government to publish, in addition to the sea charts, such detailed and minute instructions, that all navigators might enter the ports of the Republic without the assistance of coasting pilots, and proves in a satisfactory manner that the inconveniences of that measure with regard to foreign vessels would be more than counterbalanced by the national advantages that would result from it.

He embarked for Morocco in the year 1767 in quality of naval astronomer; and during the voyage he took the first observations ever made at sea on the movements of Jupiter's satellites.

During the ship's stay at Cadiz a burlesque incident occurred which he relates in the following manner: 'A sailor contrived a new method of carrying several hats on shore without being suspected. He entered the town by the usual gate of entrance with a new hat on his head; he then left it with a dealer, put on his sailors cap and left the town by a gate separated from the other only by a thick wall. His frequent coming and going occasioned his being followed by the custom-house officers who having discovered the fraud prevented a repetition of the trick.'

At Morocco the spectacle of the universal slavery, and the disgust at living among people brutalized by ignorance, obliged M. Rochon to devote the whole of his time to astronomical labors. One day whilst taking an observation of the Sun, a Marabou interrupted his observations to ask him whether he did not see in that luminary the resplendent figure of Mahomet.

He spent the following year more agreeably in reconnoitring the islands and rocks situated between the isles of France and Reunion, and the coast of Coromandel. The journal of this voyage is in great part a repetition of the preliminary discourse to the voyage to Madagascar.

In 1771 in consequence of a vague idea of the existence of an immense continent to the south of the islands of St. Paul and Amsterdam supposed to extend from the 45th degree of south latitude nearly to the pole, a space which had not been explored, the French government commissioned Captain Kerguelen to ascertain the accuracy of this conjecture, and appointed A. Rochon to make all the observations relative to nautical astronomy, during this expedition. It was said that in 1503 Gonneville landed on the continent in question, and that he brought from it a young man who settled in France, and a descendant of whom was cannon of Lisieux, in 1664. Mendanna a Spanish navigator, had discovered the Solomon islands; Bougainville had visited them, and likewise the land of St. Esprit de Quiros. They had been seen by Surville, but still doubts were entertained of their indentity.

The narratives of these navigators having a great connection with Captain Kerguelen's expedition, M. Rochon gives an analysis of each of them. They furnish him with an opportunity of hazarding a conjecture which will be eagerly embraced by sensible and enlightened men, but which seems to be contradicted by too numerous facts.

'It is very probable, he says, that the Boussole and Astrolabe were wrecked on the coast of the Solomon islands. And if such a misfortune has befallen them, may not part of the crews of the ships have found a refuge in those islands, with the abundance and fertility of which we have been made acquainted by the Spaniards. This glimpse of hope, however feeble it may be, would be more than sufficient to induce the English to recommend to their navigators who frequent those latitudes, since the establishment of settlements on the east coast of New Holland, to make enquiries concerning an event which may be attended with important consequences in these remote parts, if men as enlightened as La Peyrouse and his companions in misfortune should have formed a settlement there.

Captain

Captain Kerguelen's behaviour obliged M. Rochon to leave him at the isle of France. That officer discovered a sterile country, which he imagined to be a part of the southern continent; but Cook has proved that he was mistaken. In a second voyage, undertaken to confirm this supposed discovery, he met with nothing but new *lands of desolation.*

Mean while Poivre had persuaded the author to accompany Capt. Marion, who was preparing for a voyage round the world. Fortunately for him, the refusal of the governor of the Isle de France, a friend of Kerguelen, and jealous of Poivre, prevented the execution of this design. We say fortunately, for he would have run the risk of sharing the fate of Marion, who was massacred by the savages of New Zealand.

According to his account this atrocity was occasioned by the unpardonable hostilities committed by Surville in 1769. Crozet, Marion's lieutenant, brought home the journal of the voyage of that unfortunate navigator. M. Rochon gives a sketch of it, extracted from the narrative published by himself in 1783. The manners of the natives of New Zealand are represented in not very favourable colours.

'This country, inhabited by men who are always in a state of warfare, 'and who esteem no other art than that of destroying their fellow-creatures, 'cannot be well peopled. Thus it appears, that in New Zealand there are 'no villages excepting on the sea-coast, the population of which is in any 'degree considerable. The interior of these fertile and salubrious countries 'is almost wholly deserted. A nation continually fighting, and where the 'victor devours the vanquished, is the most destructive that can exist. 'These ferocious savages are nevertheless fond of dancing. Their dances 'are frequently lascivious, and always noisy. They are accompanied with 'war or love songs. Both sexes are strangers to modesty, and though they 'are half clothed, to protect themselves from the cold, both men and women appear in a state of nature, without attaching to it any idea of immodesty.

'When their children die, they mourn for them several days. This 'mourning consists in scratching the face, and every other part of the body, 'to mark in an ostensible manner the excess of their grief. They assemble 'in the house of the deceased, where they weep and howl in tones of despair: they recount his actions and redouble their cries at the end of every 'recital. Observing that they were all tall, robust, and well-made, Crozet 'suspects that they destroy all children that come into the world weakly 'and deformed. He remarks, likewise, that they arrive at a very great age 'without losing their hair; and observes, that their teeth wear away rather 'than decay. No trace of the venereal disease is visible in either sex; they 'are strangers to the small-pox; but are extremely filthy, and rarely wash 'themselves. Yet their skin is perfectly free from blemish.

'Our navigators were not a little surprised,' adds M. Rochon, 'to find 'among these antipodes of a part of Europe, three perfectly distinct races of 'men, white, black, and yellow. It is presumed that the whites are the 'Aborigines, and the blacks are supposed to derive their origin from New 'Guinea. The yellow or copper colour of the latter, classes them in the 'race of the Chinese. But these suppositions would scarcely stand the test 'of a strict examination.'

In concluding this notice of M. Rochon's work, it is but justice to observe, that he invariably attacks despotism and prejudices. His remarks on the countries he has seen are always interspersed with philanthropic and useful ideas. Amongst these we must not omit the advice he gives to the governments of Europe, to introduce in their colonies all kinds of machinery, and particularly steam-engines, which would greatly facilitate the manipulation of the sugar-cane, and relieve the slaves in the same proportion; nor

nor the hint respecting the cultivation of potatoes in the vicinity of every sea-port, for the service of the navy. The apprehension of fire has caused the process for rendering sea-water fresh by means of distillation to be discontinued. He proposes to prevent that danger by using coal instead of wood to heat the vessel. He likewise proposes to dispatch from Spitzbergen, towards the pole, in the mildest season, and with a favourable wind, some air balloons, with criminals, for the purpose of making observations, and to whom a reward proportionate to the importance of this perilous excursion should be given, if they were fortunate enough to descend in an inhabited country. He frequently insists on the necessity of enabling navigators to apply themselves seriously to the study of nautical astronomy; and solicitous mean-while to assist the inexperience of most of them, he has inserted towards the end of his work, *the exposition of an easy method, and suited to the capacity of the generality of seamen, to resolve the problems of the latitude and longitude.*

Thus the intrinsic merit of the work abundantly compensates for the negligence of style, the frequent repetitions, and the absolute want of connection and plan with which the author may justly be reproached.

Dissertations de Maxime de Tyr : Dissertations of Maximus, of Tyre, a Platonic philosopher, translated from the Greek text, with notes, critical, historical, and philosophical; by J. J. Combes Dounous, a member of the legislative body and several literary societies, 2 vols. 8vo.

ALTHOUGH the Greek language has sunk into unmerited neglect in France, that country still possesses many profound Grecians, and fresh candidates are continually aspiring to a place amongst them. M. Combes Dounous appeared, for the first time, about two years since, among these defenders of liberal studies, as the translator of Alcinous. The translation of Maximus of Tyre, here announced, proves that his former success has had the effect of redoubling his industry and zeal for the propagation of the doctrine of Plato. To a Porson or a Weston we shall leave the task of examining whether this new version is executed with fidelity and accuracy, and of deciding whether M. Combes Dounous has fulfilled the expectations raised by his former work. For our parts we think that it will be more agreeable to most of our readers, if we take a survey of the work, with relation to its philosophical design, and add a few remarks on its literary execution.

This design is very clearly announced in the translator's preface. The two grand questions most frequently agitated, and treated with the greatest prolixity, in these dissertations, are those on the existence and unity of God, and on the immateriality and immortality of the soul. These were the ground-work of the whole Platonic School, as they are both of public and private morals in almost every nation. M. Combes Dounous imagined that it was more than ever necessary at the present moment to direct the attention of mankind to these points. 'Placed,' he says, 'between the two formidable enemies of the human race, atheism, with the false epithet of philosophic and religious fanaticism, one of which labours to diffuse its pestilential doctrine through the world, whilst the other foolishly exerts itself to establish that terrific empire which has occasioned such calamities, catastrophes, and blood-shed, it behoves us to use every endeavour to impede the progress and stop the career of those two scourges of the world.'

It is not our intention here to examine whether we are actually placed on the point which the author imagines, nor whether the dangers of either of these doctrines are equal to those of the other, nor whether it is true that we are equally menaced by both. We are satisfied with discovering, in the translator's very laudable intentions, that one of the methods which he considers most proper to render efficacious the kind of sacred combination which he proposes, is to diffuse and to reduce to the capacity of every reasonable and honest

honest mind, such works as, like the *Dissertations of Maximus of Tyre*, connect the elementary principles of morality with the doctrine of the existence and unity of God.

The name of the town subjoined to that of Maximus plainly points out his birth-place; but very little more is known concerning his life. Eusebius, of Cesaria, mentions him in his Chronicle among the philosophers who flourished during the reign of Marcus Antoninus. By a misconception of the expressions of Eusebius, and those of Marcus Antoninus himself, in his *Moral Reflections*, Joseph Scaliger has taken Maximus, of Tyre, the Platonic philosopher, for a Maximus of Epire, a stoic, one of the preceptors of the above-mentioned emperor. Frederic Morel, a learned Grecian, and celebrated printer, of the 16th century, has fallen into a still greater error in the argument to one of the orations of the rhetorician Libanius. He has confounded Maximus, of Tyre, with a Maximus who was preceptor to the emperor Julian, thus making an anachronism of two centuries. M. Combes Dounous clears up this confusion by the assistance of Suidas, Julius Capitolinus, the learned Fabricius, and our countryman Davies, whose opinions and authorities he investigates in a very methodical manner.

All that can hence be gathered, with certainty, relative to the life of Maximus, is, that he was of Tyrian extraction, that he had the reputation of a philosopher as early as the ninth year of the reign of Marcus Antoninus; that he resided for some time at Rome, during that of Commodus; that he travelled through Arabia and Phrygia, in his peregrinations, and that he pronounced in public his seventh dissertation in a city of Greece.

The works of this writer had been twice before translated; the first time by Guillebert, at Rouen, in 1617; the second in 1764, by Formey, secretary to the academy of Berlin. The style of the first has become obsolete; the author of the second, as M. Combes Dounous observes, 'has written in 'French as a Frenchman who had never been out of France would write 'German;' Maximus, of Tyre, was therefore still to be translated.

The subjects of his dissertations, in general, are those which most commonly employed the meditations of the philosophers of antiquity, particularly those of the Platonic school: for instance,—*If pleasure is a good, it is not a solid good.* Three dissertations are devoted to a development of this maxim: What is the end of philosophy? Whether the gods should be represented by material emblems? Whether prayers should be addressed to the gods? Which diseases are the most dangerous, those of the mind or of the body? What is God? according to Plato. Is virtue an art? Does virtue proceed from the gods? God being the author of good, whence comes evil? &c.

The pupil of Plato is likewise recognized in his admiration of Socrates, the homage which he pays him, the frequent questions he proposes relative to him, and the care with which he investigates them. At one time he enquires whether Socrates did right in making no defence; at another, what is the familiar spirit of Socrates? To the latter question he devotes two entire dissertations; and occupies no less than four with a demonstration of what is the love of Socrates? This love (and who that contemplates the whole of the life and principles of this first of sages can doubt it?) was but the love of honesty, of virtue. His slanderers, who are at the same time those of virtue, have been of a contrary opinion, but their calumnies shrink from a strict examination, and fall to the ground before these eloquent dissertations of Maximus.

He uses an ingenious argument to prove that Socrates, when he appeared before his judges, could not, with propriety, make any defence. We know that Plato and Xenophon, those two faithful adorers of his memory, have, upon this occasion, attributed to him expressions worthy of the wisest of men. Maximus, of Tyre, the more strongly to mark his opinion, by carrying

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ing it to the extreme, maintains that he absolutely refused to make any reply, and he employs the following acute and singular argument to convince us of the propriety and beauty of this silence.

'If any person,' he says, 'should come to you and say:—There was a 'man at Athens, advanced in years, a philosopher by profession, in low circumstances, but endowed with excellent moral qualities, a good orator, sagacious, active, sober, incapable of doing or saying any thing without a 'certain object; who, during a long life, had by his virtues acquired the 'esteem of the most exalted characters among the Greeks, and of Apollo 'among the gods. Envy, animosity, hatred of his sublime morality, excited 'against him Aristophanes among the comic poets, Melitus among the sycophants, Lycon among the orators, the Athenians among the Greeks: and 'while he was ridiculed on the stage by one, accused by another; whilst he 'was brought to judgment by the former, and traduced by the latter, and 'even in the presence of the tribunal, he began to attack Aristophanes with 'his own weapons. He represented him in his turn on the stage, during 'the festival of Bacchus, whilst the spectators were still intoxicated with the 'licentious orgies. He then appeared before his judges; he, in his turn, 'accused those who had before accused him; he entered into details of great 'length; his principal aim, in his defence, was to ingratiate himself with 'his judges, at the very beginning of his address, to convince them, by an 'exposition of facts, to demonstrate his innocence by the force and truth of 'his evidence, and by the testimony of the most virtuous and respectable of 'his fellow-citizens. At the conclusion of his harangue he had recourse to 'entreaties and supplications; he excited pity; he even shed tears. To 'these he added the apparition of Xantippe, described her lamentations and 'his childrens' sorrow and affliction; till at length the judges overpowered, 'moved, melted into compassion by the united effect of all these circumstances, decided in his favour, and pronounced his acquittal.

'O the glorious victory! certainly he might then appear again either at 'the Lyceum or the Academy, or any other place of customary resort, with 'the same exultation as the mariner who has escaped from some tempest at 'sea. But how would philosophy again receive such a man? In the same 'manner as the chief of the gymnasium would receive a combatant on his 'return from the arena, perfumed from head to foot, having obtained the 'crown without the least trouble, without being covered with dust, without bruise or wound, without bringing back any proof of his courage. 'And from what motive should Socrates have defended himself before 'judges such as those who tried him at Athens? Was it because they could 'pronounce a sentence consonant to justice? but they were strangers to 'every thing excepting iniquity. Was it because they were men endowed 'with wisdom? but they were destitute of sense. Was it because they 'were susceptible of benevolence? but they were full of animosity against 'him. Was it because their mode of life in some degree resembled his? it 'was the very reverse. Was it because they were better than he? but he 'was a much better man than they. Was it, on the other hand, because 'they had less merit than he? and what man, feeling his superiority over 'his judges, would, in a similar case, condescend to defend himself before 'them? and if he had been inclined to defend himself, what could he have 'said? that he had not professed philosophy? but he would then have been 'guilty of untruth. That he had made profession of philosophy? but that 'was the very crime of which he was accused.'

He then makes two objections, or rather produces two examples. Socrates ought to have justified himself against the charge of having corrupted the Athenian youth, and introduced new gods. He ought at least to have endeavoured to save his life;—and he replies to each in a series of argu-

ments interwoven in some measure one with the other. 'Thus Socrates, he then resumes, 'had great occasion to speak before the Athenians who 'tried him! He was 70 years old; he had devoted that long period to the 'study of philosophy and the practice of virtue: he had injured no man; he 'could not be reproached with a single vice; his manners pure in the highest 'degree; his connections the most honourable; having a view to utility in 'all his concerns, and amending all those that approached him. All this 'was insufficient to preserve him from trial, imprisonment, and death; and 'would the short space of a few clepsydra,* that might have been allowed 'for his defence, have saved him? No, the clepsydra could not have done 'it; and even if they could, Socrates would not have availed himself of 'them. No, by Jupiter; no, by all the gods! It is as if some recreant in 'arms, admitted to the council of the celebrated Lacedæmonian Leonidas, 'had advised him to retreat a little, and to suffer Xerxes to make an irrup-'tion. Leonidas would have rejected such a proposal. He would have 'preferred perishing at his post, with his virtue and his arms in his hand, 'to saving himself by turning his back to a barbarian king. And what 'would have been the defence of Socrates but turning his back, saving 'himself by cowardice, and a disgraceful flight? He therefore remained 'firm; he braved the shock, and acquitted himself with courage. The 'Athenians thought they had condemned him to death. And Xerxes like-'wise imagined he had conquered Leonidas. But by the death of Leonidas, 'it was Xerxes himself who was conquered; by the death of Socrates the 'Athenians condemned themselves to eternal infamy.'

There is an uncommon vivacity and an agreeable singularity in this manner of reasoning. The translation possesses great merit, and that in particular of following with fidelity all the turns and movements of the original, as far at least as the difference of the idioms would permit.

But neither the author, nor the translator, are always entitled to praise. M. Combes Dounous himself confesses that Maximus, of Tyre, frequently treats his subject with that logical subtlety, didactic precision, and high-flown oratory, which the writers of those times appear to have studied. We may even go further, and accuse him of frequently being nothing more than a sophist and rhetorician; and of exhausting the various forms of argument and style which weary by their affectation, and disgust by their dryness. It would be easy to mention instances, and there is scarcely any of these forty-one dissertations that would not furnish several. Hence it results, that in general they do not possess the character of real eloquence, but that of empty declamation.

With regard to the translator he is reproached with having mistaken the sense of his original in several passages. He may likewise be justly censured for many inaccuracies and inelegancies of style that have either escaped him through haste, or which he has habitually contracted.

Œuvres choisies de Panard:—Selections from the Works of Panard, out of respect for his memory, by Armand Gouffé. 3 small vols. 18mo. with a Portrait of Panard.

THERE was but one edition of Panard's works, in four thick volumes, in 12mo. of 500 pages each, printed by Duchesne, in 1763, two years before the author's death, and this edition had become very scarce. M. Ar-

* The clepsydron was an instrument containing a certain quantity of water, which ran out in a given time, upon the same principle as an hour glass. It was used in courts of justice. Each of the speakers was allowed a certain number of clepsydra, and was obliged to say all that he had to say within that time.

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mand Gouffé has undertaken to make a selection from this edition, which was by much too large, and to give one cheaper and less voluminous. The reader is a gainer by it and Panard likewise. For we do not arrive, as Voltaire says,—

"Avec un gros bagage a l'immortalité."

Panard, notwithstanding his merit, died overcome with the weight of his four thick volumes. By reducing him to a proper standard his imitator and editor has brought him to life again.

In a prefatory address he mentions what retrenchments he has made, and the motives which induced him to make them. He likewise gives an historic notice on Panard.

Memoires Historiques et Politiques sur la Republique de Venise: Historical and Political Memoirs on the Republic of Venice. By Leopold Curti, 2 vols. 8vo.

THE government of Venice, a kind of *political mythology*, (to use the author's own words) even the priests of which were not always of the number of the initiated, has, for several centuries, astonished Europe, and the Venetians themselves, by its form, its acts, and capricious cruelty. Montesquieu in vain attempted to fathom it. A magic silence appeared to be the safeguard of the secrecy in which it was found necessary to envelope the frequently insignificant and frequently enormous wheels that put it in motion. From the time of Montesquieu no satisfactory work had till now appeared on this subject; and although this extraordinary government no longer exists, the subject has not lost its importance in the eyes of studious and contemplative men, whom their taste or their functions incline to the study of every possible form of government, and all the means of power or influence which it is possible for politic laws to put into the hands of the governors.

The work here announced is divided into two parts. The first is occupied with an account of the Venetian form of government, throughout all the gradations of power and administration. The second contains the author's reflections and private opinions on the actual result and effect of the political institutions described in the first part, and the improvements requisite in those institutions for perfectly attaining the end proposed. This second part forms almost two thirds of the work, and it is just that part which existing circumstances should have caused him to abridge considerably. However it will be found to contain comparisons and ideas capable of exciting interest at all times, and which prove, that the author of these *Political Memoirs* possesses as much real knowledge as discernment and sagacity, besides an ardent and sincere love for his unfortunate country which had exiled him from her bosom. All that he says, particularly of the former *council of ten*, the two famous *state inquisitors*, and of the authority and functions of the *Doge* and *correctors*, presents a picture equally striking and instructive of the dreadful abuses produced by time and corruption, and which become the necessary effect of institutions established with the best intentions. It is in treating of this doge, and his real authority, in 1797, that he introduces the following Latin description, the laconic eloquence of which presents the most accurate representation of that dignity at the abovementioned period:—*rex in purpurâ, senator in curiâ, in urbe captivus, extra urbem privatus.*

In a word, these memoirs are the work of a really zealous patriot, a man well acquainted with the affairs of the government and internal administration; and in this point of view they excite a degree of interest and curiosity, wholly independent of the political events, which have produced a new order of things totally different from the former.

Voyage fait dans les departements nouvellement reunis et dans les departements du Bas Rhin, &c. Travels in the departments lately united to France, and in those of the Lower Rhine, the North, Pas de Calais, and the Somme, at the end of the year 10; by A. G. Camus, Member of the National Institute. 2 vols. 18mo. with a map and plates.

AN extract from these travels was some months since submitted to the public*. It was read to the National Institute by the author of the present work, whom that learned body had appointed to make this tour conformably to the law by which it was established. But as M. Camus observes, there are details which may and ought to be introduced into a publication like the present, and which are not suited to a report intended to be read to a literary assembly.

Thus the whole of the report will be found in the tour, but the author has introduced additional matter interesting to the reader. He has observed and accurately observed in the departments which he has traversed, principally whatever relates to charitable establishments, the public interest, the sciences, prisons, hospitals, libraries, central schools, lycea, manufactures, &c. The reader feels himself carried along with him in his journey, all his narratives are animated, full of frankness and a glow which is transfused into the mind of the reader.

The commission received by M. Camus from the government, his character of traveller to the Institute afforded him facilities and opportunities of seeing which ordinary travellers do not enjoy; besides he traversed these departments for the third time; he visited them the first time at the end of 1792 and beginning of 1793, in quality of Commissioner of the Convention, of which he was a member; and the second time in the month of April 1793, when he was carried by the Austrians as a prisoner to Mastricht, Ehrenbreitstein, and Konigingratz. If Marius felt satisfaction when seated on the ruins of Carthage, M. Camus must have experienced greater when walking over those of this fortress in which he had been a prisoner. 'It is nothing, he 'says, but ruins already overgrown with grass and shrubs: wormwood is the 'most abundant.'

The typographic execution of this little work contributes to render it still more valuable, and the engravings are extremely neat.

Boileau jugé par ses Amis et par ses Ennemis; Boileau judged by his Friends and Enemies. A work that may be useful to all those who intend to be Candidates for the prize of Eloquence proposed by the National Institute. By C. Palmezeaux. 12mo. 200 p.

Fontenelle, Colardeau et Dorat ou Eloges de ces trois Ecrivains célèbres. Fontenelle, Colardeau, and Dorat, or Eulogies of those three celebrated writers. Containing many Anecdotes that are not known; to which is prefixed a Letter to the Author, by the celebrated and unfortunate Bailly, on the Eulogy of Fontenelle, and followed by the Life of Antoine Rivarol. By C. Palmezeaux. 8vo. 380 p.

WE notice these two works of M. Palmezeaux together, as the nature of both is the same. In both he appreciates distinguished talents; in both he announces literary opinions in which every body does not agree with him. It is perhaps a misfortune in literature to differ from the majority, but at least a person shews a frankness, and sometimes a courage, in saying plainly what he thinks.

* See Monthly Register No. 11.

Was Boileau a great poet? Have his writings produced a beneficial, or a contrary effect upon his own age or the present? M. Palmezeaux answers both these questions in the negative. Boileau nevertheless has left admirable models of poetry and versification in those kinds of composition to which his genius led him. With regard to his influence we do not see that his lessons or his example have restrained the passion for rhyming; and on the other hand, we think we can perceive in the poems of the 18th century, traces of the application with which the authors had studied his works.

M. Palmezeaux is more unprejudiced in his eulogy of Fontenelle, an ingenious fiction is made the vehicle of founded opinions, and praises the more solid as they are tempered by sound criticism.

In that of Colardeau he confines himself principally to an exposition of the beauties of that author's tragedies, which Laharpe has too much depreciated. He admits however that the subjects are ill-chosen.

Being a friend of Dorat, he praises him almost without reserve. Unfortunately the public has pronounced against the opinion of the panegyrist; and if candour should one day get the better of his friendship for M. Dorat, M. Palmezeaux will then readily perceive that he has rated his talents too high in the same manner as he has exaggerated the defects of Boileau.

There is likewise some exaggeration in the advantageous portrait he at first draws of Rivarol; but towards the end he speaks with greater impartiality. He justly blames the desultory, unconnected manner of his discourse on the universality of the French language, the extraordinary style of his Dante, and the enigmatical and far-fetched phrases with which his preliminary discourse abounds. For the rest we cannot but approve the manner in which he has exculpated him from the calumnies of his enemies. Rivarol, upon the whole was endowed with great good sense, and a happy memory; he possessed an extensive knowledge, and his conversation was highly fascinating. But all his good sense was not sufficient to preserve him from a puerile and misplaced vanity, nor to prevent his being sometimes unintelligible, and sometimes unpardonably severe. He treasured up all the witty expressions that dropped from his friends in private conversation, and turned them to good account in company. He made no other use of his knowledge than to employ on every occasion in his writings, technical terms belonging to the arts and sciences; and from the ambition of being original he abandoned the career of knowledge for obscure metaphysical disquisition without aim or object. In short, like all great speakers, he, in a week exhausted his stock of anecdotes, discussions and epigrams, and was reduced to the necessity of again beginning the course he had just completed.

GERMAN BOOKS.

Bemerkungen auf einer Reise durch das südliche Deutschland, den Elsass und die Schweitz; Observations on a Tour through the South of Germany, Alsace, and Switzerland, in the years 1798 and 1799, by C. U. Dvon Eggers. Counsellor of Legation of the King of Denmark, and Deputy to the College of Finance. Vols. 1. and 2, 8vo. 3rxd. 8gr.

OF the six volumes announced by the Author, the first contains his journey from Copenhagen to Rastadt, observations on the Margravate of Baden, traits of the history of the French revolution, anecdotes of the revolution of Italy, and a brief account of the fall of the Swiss republic. In the second is found a description of the city of Strasburg, with reflections on the consequences of the French revolution. The third and fourth volumes will contain two tours by the author, in Switzerland, in the spring and autumn of 1798. The fifth will treat of the breaking up of the Congress of Rastadt, and give the details of a visit to the imperial army and Zurich, in May 1799.

The

The sixth will comprehend the author's tour by way of Constance and Ratisbon to Vienna, Prague, Toplitz, and Dresden.

The first volume as we have already observed, commences with the author's journey from Copenhagen to Rastadt: but he was obliged to travel with such expedition, and by night as well as by day, that he had no time either to make observations himself, or to procure information from others. To this not the slightest objection can be made, but that notwithstanding 138 pages should be occupied with this journey, creates an unfavourable impression of the whole work. This part likewise contains many inaccuracies. Thus p. 32 the population of Cassel is stated to be 30,000 persons, which exceeds the truth by many thousands. It is likewise asserted that the price of posting is raised in every other country excepting Holstein, whereas in 1799 it was full one third higher than formerly in Holstein, and on the contrary in some of the German provinces the rate was the same as 50 years ago.

The information relative to the Margravate of Baden, and to Rastadt in particular, is more interesting. In 1797 Rastadt contained 4668 souls, and 242 houses, exclusive of those belonging to noblemen. In consequence of the congress the town received an accession of 858 strangers. By a third calculation there appear to have been 602 persons attached to the various deputations, and 283 other strangers, including the military. The 50 deputies paid for house-rent only, 15,000 gulden per month. And supposing each of them to spend only one louis d'or a day, it would amount to about 65,000 gulden per month. The living of their servants only cost about 12,000 gulden monthly. A commision appointed by the government of Baden, superintended the police under which the deputies placed their attendants. A hospital was likewise provided for the latter with board, washing and lodging at the rate of a gulden a day; and they were attended gratis by a physician.

In the park of Carlsruhe is Mayer's celebrated and extensive establishment for polishing gems; particularly those of native production. Those discovered in this country, from time to time, since 1754, consist of about 80 kinds. Snuff-boxes and necklaces are likewise made here of Iceland lava.

The second part which begins with a journey to Strasburg, comprehends observations on Fort Louis, the celebrated lines, Kehl, the errors committed by the allied powers in the late war. At Strasburg the author was present at the great festival of the sovereignty of the people, to which the inhabitants shewed the utmost indifference. The elections are not free, and are attended by those least capable of exercising their judgment. None appears to wish for any thing more than tranquillity, and security of person and property. Only the lowest of the populace seemed to take part in the diversion of the evening.

The account of the state of the fabrics of Strasburg before the revolution is very interesting. In the city only were 26 or 30 tobacco manufactories which employed upwards of 5000 persons. In the year 1719, 80,000 cwt. were manufactured, and 1 million livres paid to the peasantry who furnished the leaves at the rate of 12 livres per cwt. At that time there were above 100 manufactories in the city, which supported 10,000 persons; at present there are not more than 45.

In Letter 23, the author takes occasion, from the trial of a civil and criminal cause, at which he was present, to state at considerable length his opinion on trial by jury, on English law, the unsteadiness of judges, and the literal application of the laws, but he appears not sufficiently ac-

quainted with the laws on which he animadverts, and particularly the English, to be able to pronounce an impartial judgment on the subject. The 26th letter contains many satisfactical details relative to Alsace. In the 27th the author continues the narrative of the revolution in Switzerland, of which he had before taken some notice. Many things are introduced that were new at the time he wrote them, but which since then are generally known, and have appeared long ago in different works. This applies particularly to the 28th letter, containing remarks on the conduct of the French with regard to Hamburg, &c. For the rest, these letters with some trifling exceptions are well written, and evince throughout intelligence, a love of truth, and a noble way of thinking. The Author's residence a Rastadt furnished him an opportunity of procuring the best information, which he collected with diligence, assiduity, and judgment.

Charakterzüge, Grandsätze und Meynungen der Konigin Christine von Schweden; Sketches of the character, principles, and opinions of Queen Christina of Sweden. 8vo. 382 p. 1rxd. 4gr.

THE first part of this work, to page 177, is occupied with a Sketch of Queen Christina, compiled from the copious memoirs of Arkenholtz. It is however rather incomplete; the history of her reign is too short; and it is utterly deficient in what would be particularly expected concerning so remarkable a princess, composed almost of contradictions, namely a connected and complete delineation of her character. For the rest, this sketch is rendered sufficiently interesting by the addition of extracts from her letters, and from the accounts of her by celebrated men, in the early part of her life. In Bielefeld's so-called portrait of this princess, introduced at p. 174 there are some striking traits. 'Extraordinary in every 'thing, she wished only to be celebrated for great actions, and disdained 'to be distinguished by those of less importance.'

'Alexander wished to conquer the whole universe; Christina wished 'she had it in her power to resign the sovereignty of it. She visited fo-'reign countries as much out of coquetry as curiosity.'

The second part contains the life of Queen Christina by herself; a kind of confessions, written by her eight years before her death; likewise extracted from Arkenholtz's work. Although it is certainly worthy of perusal, in order to acquire such a knowledge of Christina as she herself wished; yet we never could derive much pleasure from it.

In the third part are contained the maxims and opinions of Christina; extracts from two of her productions that are to be found in various other collections; *Owrage de Loisir* and *Sentimens.*

On this head the editor of the present work justly observes: 'Probably 'the reader will find in them many beautiful and sublime passages, many 'extraordinary and paradoxical, and many rash and incorrect assertions. 'But as the latter contribute equally with the former to an intimate ac-'quaintance with so extraordinary a mind: I thought they ought not to be 'omitted in an attempt to delineate the character of Christina.' But when he adds: 'The conclusions that may be drawn from her actions 'with respect to her character are, as with every other person, not to 'be depended upon; her own peculiar maxims on the other hand afford a 'clearer view of her heart, and are her best apology.' we must profess to be of an exactly contrary opinion. If we are not to form an opinion of a great mind, as of a mean one from actions, upon what can we securely ground

ground our judgment? A person may have the most excellent maxims in his mouth, and even commit them to paper, and yet we may be utter strangers to the heart of the sentimental writer, particularly if he is known to have a predilection for subtilty and paradox.

The whole collection in our opinion will furnish instruction and entertainment. It exhibits the author's fertility of mind in defending contradictions of every kind. Thus in one place (p. 266) he says: 'God 'had established the authority of the Pope, and the church in such a remarkable manner by so many miracles, so many councils, and other 'signs, that no reasonable person can doubt of the fulfilment of the prophecy, in which he promised that the gates of hell should not prevail 'against it.' A little further (p. 266) we find; 'Nothing is a more 'powerful confirmation of the truths of the Catholic Religion than all 'those pitiful practices now (1680) carried on at Rome.' In the sequel we find alternately, sagacious, striking, and ingenious observations, and others that are trite, superficial and merely dazzling. The following will serve as specimens: 'It betrays great meanness of soul to desire 'any thing short of God.--Rest is a blessing that cheers us above all things; 'it is the most important of all occupations; we never find it when we 'seek it.—The indolence of Princes makes them dependant on their ministers.—The only secret to prevent yourself from being ruled, is to 'believe little and to do much.--True greatness depends only on the heart, 'if that is great, all is so.—Contempt of ourselves is the only advantage 'we may derive from sin.—The maxim of the Delphian oracle: Know thy-'self! that pretended source of human wisdom, is rather the source of 'human misery.--It is almost impossible to unite love and matrimony.--All 'that you give is gain, and all that you do not give is loss.' It is only to be lamented that such a princess did not sufficiently weigh, in preference to all others, the grand maxim: *Quod sis, velis, nihilque malis!*

J. C. Lavater's Lebensbeschreibung, &c. Life of J. C. Lavater, by George Gesner, vol 2. 8vo. 428 p. 1xrd. 12gr.

IN our twelfth number we announced the first volume of this work, which affords very good materials for a biography of Lavater, for notwithstanding Gesner's labor, the life of that celebrated man still remains to be written. In the present volume we find interesting notices on Lavater's literary life, on his connection with Mendelssohn, Hottinger, Teller, Semler, &c. on his interview at Waldshut, with the Emperor Joseph II. in 1779, his opinions on animal magnetism, from which he hoped more perhaps than ever Mesmer himself, considering it as destined to confirm the doctrine of miracles. This volume contains likewise various reflections of Lavater, on the death of his mother, on education, and on the influence and power of the devil, &c. which prove that Lavater always followed the spirit of his age, without rising above it like Herder, Semler, and others. A third volume will conclude this biography, which with all its defects must be allowed to possess considerable interest.